

# MAN IN BLACK

## INTEGRALE 1957-1958

### BIBLIOTHECA VIRTUALIS





et homme en noir n'a rien à voir avec ceux que le cinéma a popularisé. Ce personnage, malgré sa coiffure méphistophélique, n'est rien d'autre que le destin. Il est bien sûr malicieux et a pour le seconder Vénus la déesse de l'Amour et la Tisserande, de fait l'une des Parques qui tisse le destin des hommes.

Dans ces histoires Vénus interviendra finalement assez peu, on verra davantage Eros; en revanche la Tisserande sera bien plus présente.

A proprement parler il ne s'agit pas d'histoires d'horreur, ni même fantastiques mais elles empruntent beaucoup au genre présent dans les comics. Tout d'abord les histoires bénéficient d'un hôte. On l'a vu maintes fois, que ce soit le Gardien de la Crypte, Uncle Creepy, Boris Karloff, Dr Spektor ou plus récemment Vincent Price. Toutes se terminent par un retournement de situation et toutes comportent une morale finale ou une mise au point historique.

En effet, plusieurs de ces récits sont basés sur des évènements réels avec des personnages fictifs: Pompéi, le Hindenburg, Little Big Horn. Quelques autres relatent d'authentiques épisodes comme ceux de Roland Garros ou d'Esopo. A chaque fois bien sûr le destin inverse les choses.

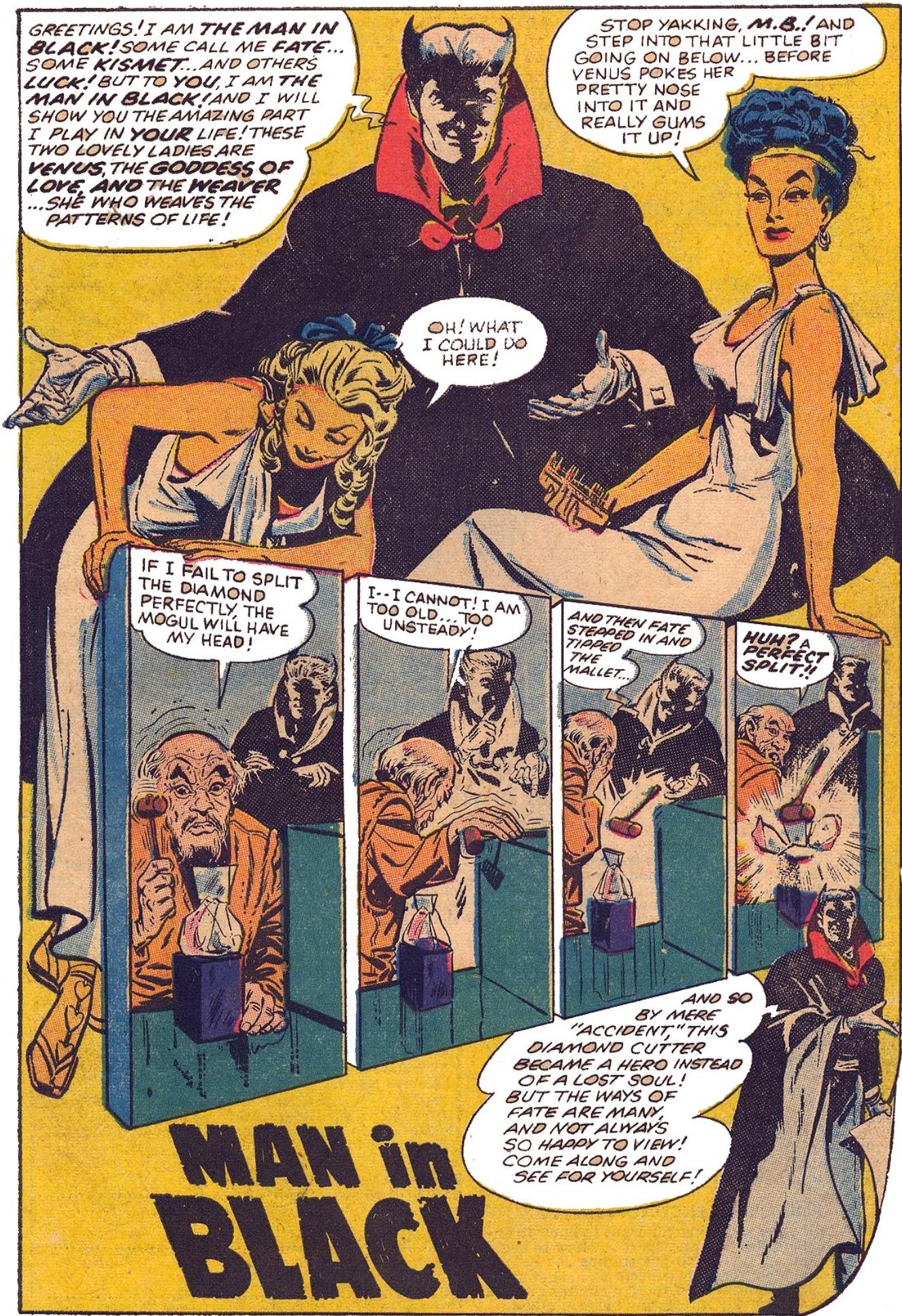
À cela se greffent bien sûr des fictions mais toujours dans le même état d'esprit. C'est assurément plaisant. La conception de l'ensemble promettait de jolies promenades dans l'espace et le temps. Il n'en a rien été, l'aventure s'est terminée au bout de quatre numéros.

Voici les histoires dans leur intégralité. J'ai bien conscience que les retouches ne sont pas parfaites mais je tiens à préciser que les originaux étaient vraiment dans un sale état.

Mais c'était sans doute leur destin !

Garches, le 4 novembre 2020



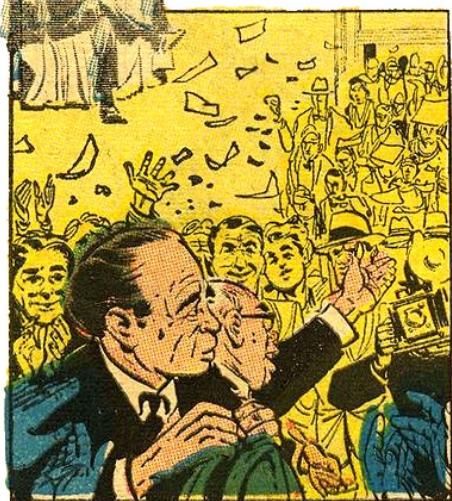






"ASTUTE SHOWMAN THAT HE WAS, MAX BOEHM EXHIBITED THE PAINTING TO ITS BEST ADVANTAGE AND IN A MERE FEW WEEKS THE 'CYTHEREA' AS IT WAS CALLED, BECAME THE MOST FAMOUS PAINTING IN THE WORLD."

AND PAUL PRENZ WAS SWEEPED ALONG IN ITS GLORY... BEWILDERED AT FIRST, THEN AMUSED AND FINALLY SWEEP OFF HIS FEET IN THE MAD, HEADY WHIRLPOOL OF ADULATION!"



"SELLING THE 'CYTHEREA' FOR A SMALL FORTUNE, PAUL LIVED HIGH, FREELY THROWING HIS MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN OF A GOOD TIME..."

WHAT, PAUL,  
YOU'RE PAINTING?  
YES, I NEED  
SOME CASH, SO  
I THOUGHT I'D  
WHIP OUT A  
PAINTING!



THIS YOU CALL A PAINTING?  
THIS BY THE CREATOR OF  
THE 'CYTHEREA'? THIS IS  
TRASH! WORTHLESS!

WHA-??



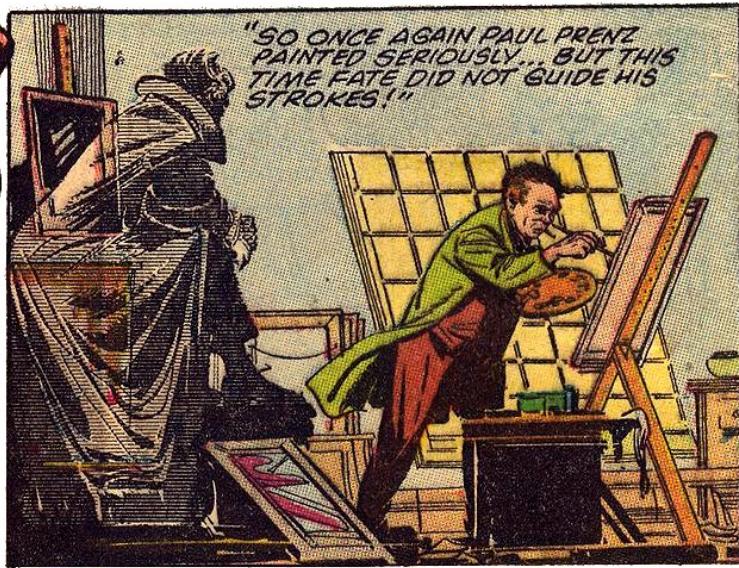
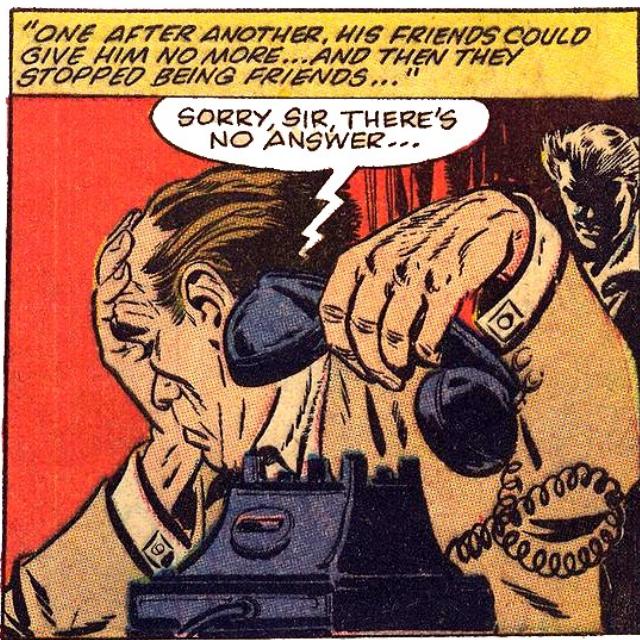
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I'M THE GREATEST ARTIST IN THE WORLD? THAT 'TRASH' WILL BRING A LOTTA MONEY!

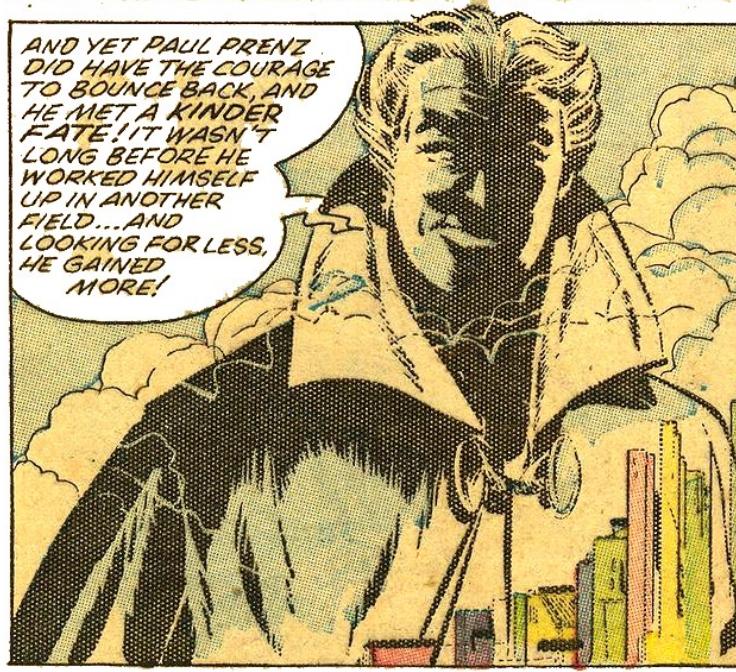
BECAUSE OF YOUR FAME FROM THE 'CYTHEREA'! BUT SOON PEOPLE WILL NOT WANT JUST JUNK BUT SOMETHING WORTHY OF A 'CYTHEREA'.. THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO, EH, PAUL?



"BUT POMPOUS, CONCEITED PAUL KEPT TOSSED HIS MONEY AWAY, SELLING A PAINTING NOW AND THEN, BUT LIKE MAX PREDICTED, SOON NOBODY WANTED ANYTHING LESS THAN A 'CYTHEREA'!"



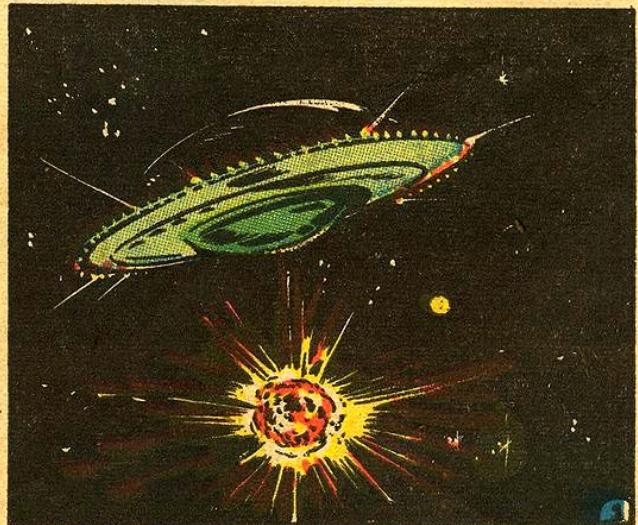




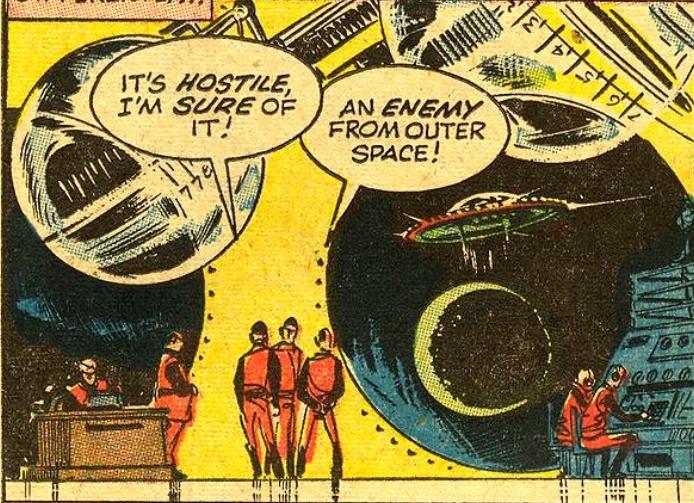
# SECOND CHANCE



...BUT ALAS! THE POOR HARRIED CRYPTOGRAPHER NEVER FINISHED HIS STATEMENT, FOR THE INVADERS, TECHNOLOGICALLY FAR ADVANCED OF EARTH, UNLOOSEED THEIR OWN MIGHTY WEAPONS AT THE WORLD'S FIRST SALVO AND DESTROYED IT ALL...



BUT LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS SCENE, AND SEE WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF FATE HAD GIVEN THEM A **SECOND CHANCE**...AND THEY HAD ACTED DIFFERENTLY...



IT JUST KEEPS SENDING THOSE UNINTELLIGIBLE SIGNALS! CRYPTOGRAPHER, HAVE YOU DECODED THEIR MESSAGE YET?

ALMOST THRU, SIR!



AS FAST AS YOU CAN, BUT MAKE SURE IT'S CORRECT!



IT'S THE SAME MESSAGE OVER AND OVER, SIR... HERE, I'LL TYPE IT OUT!



AS I FEARED! HOSTILE! LOOK! READ IT! "DECEIVE US AND WE WILL DESCEND ON YOU!" HMM! IT DOES SOUND...



'SCUSE ME, SIR! THE MESSAGE READS WRONG! MAY I SEE IT? HERE... BUT HURRY! WE SHOULD ATTACK BEFORE THEY DO!

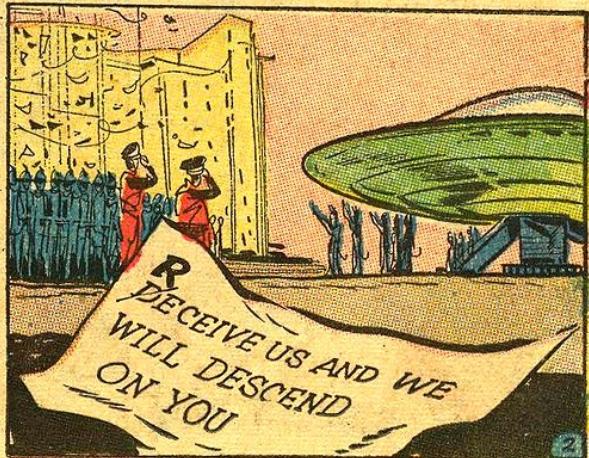


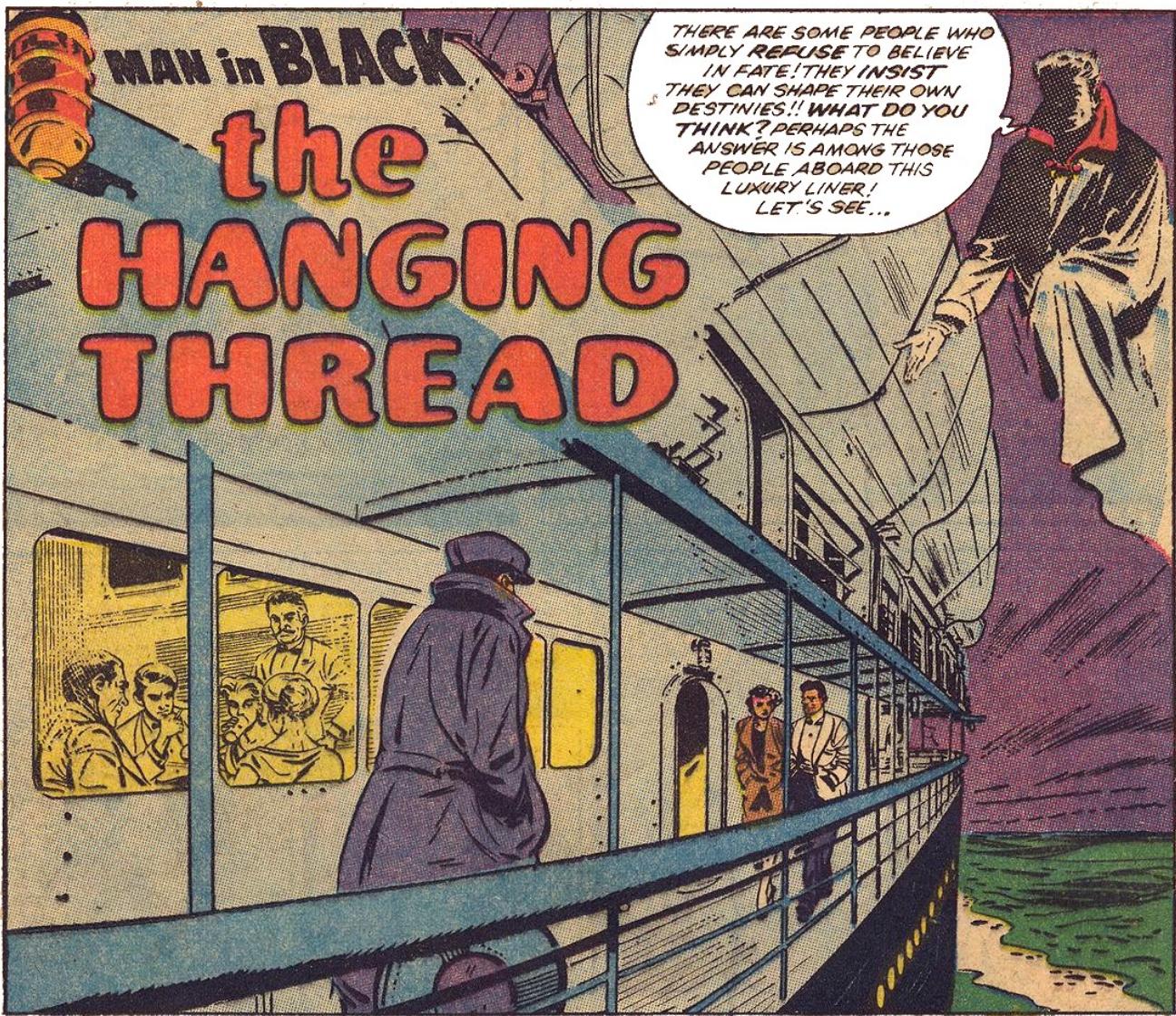
GOOD GRIEF! I PUNCHED THE WRONG TYPEWRITER KEY! HERE, SIR, THE MESSAGE SHOULD READ THIS WAY!

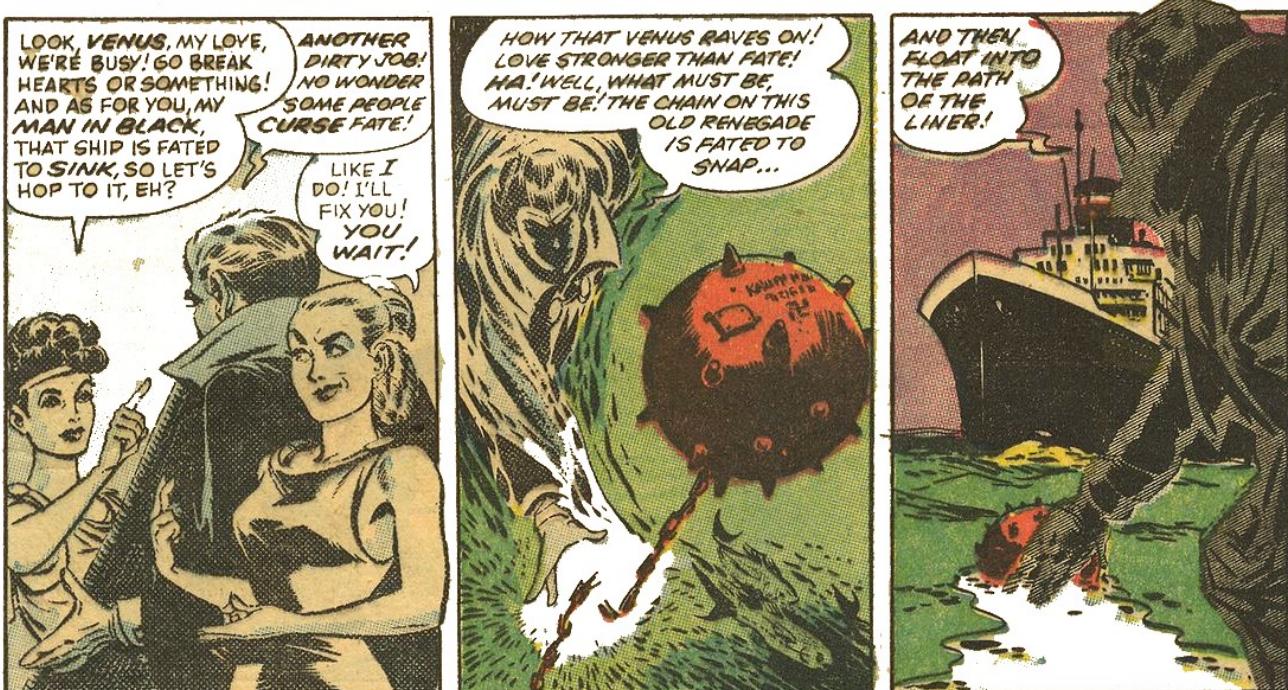
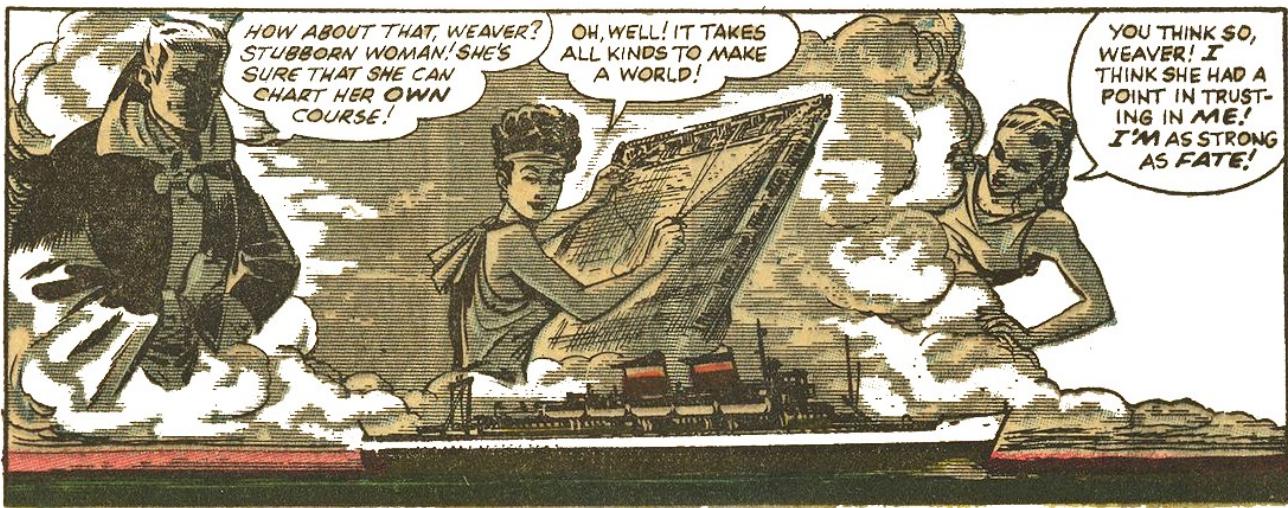
WELL! THAT IS DIFFERENT - THIS SOUNDS FRIENDLY! YES! DEFINITELY! RADIO MAN, SEND THIS REPLY... "WE RECEIVE YOU GLADLY!"

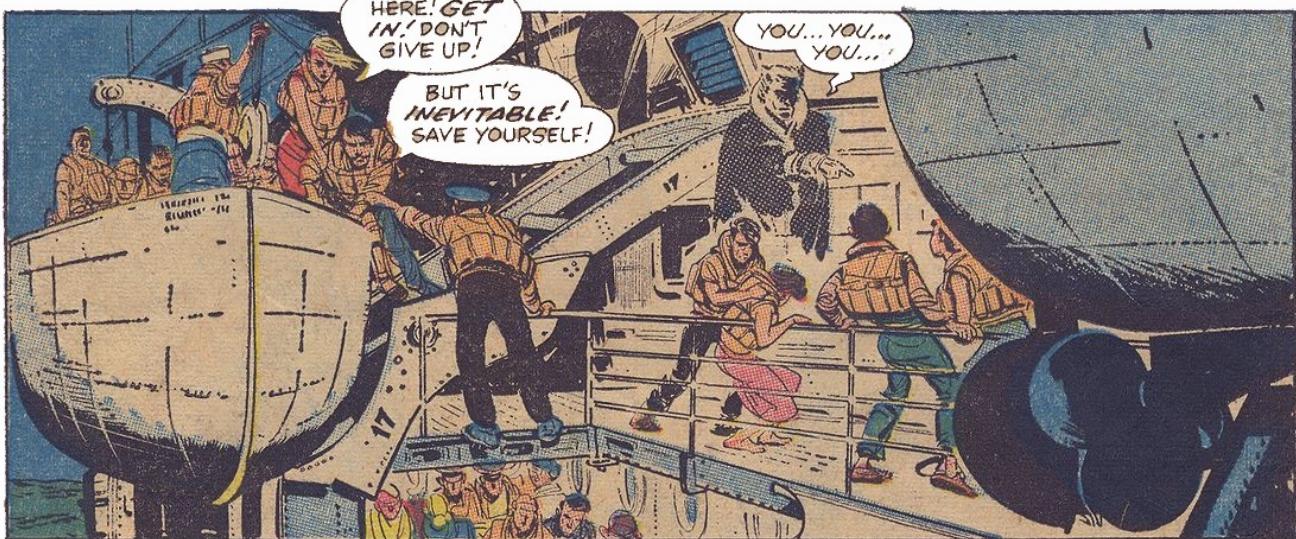


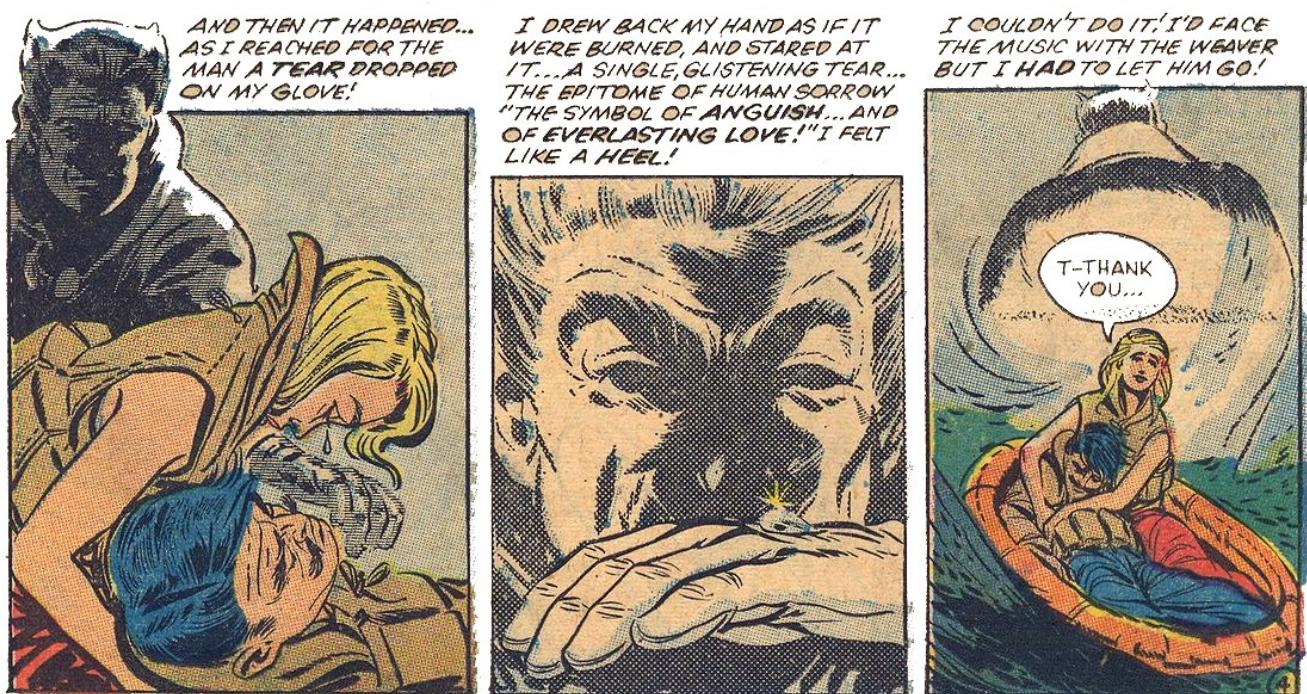
AND THUS A GLORIOUS NEW ERA OF COMMUNICATION AND TRADE BEGAN BETWEEN THE PLANETS -- AN ERA THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED (AS YOU SAW) BECAUSE A PANICKED CRYPTOGRAPHER PUSHED A LETTER ON THE SECOND ROW OF A TYPEWRITER WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE PUSHED THE LETTER JUST OVER IT ON THE TOP ROW!













# MAN in BLACK THE FLY IN THE OINTMENT

DID YOU KNOW  
THAT A LOWLY,  
COMMON HOUSE FLY  
ONCE THWARTED THE  
COMBINED EFFORTS OF A  
MIGHTY KING AND HIS  
WICKED TORTURER? YOU  
DON'T? -- WELL THEN, FRIEND,  
THIS STORY IS  
FOR YOU!



IT ALL HAPPENED  
LONG AGO WHEN  
A TRAVELLER NAMED  
KONI AND HIS  
SISTER, SINARA,  
WANDERED INTO  
THE MAOS CAPITAL  
OF WONDEROUS  
GHENJI!



HO! WHAT STRANGERS  
ARE THESE WHO HIDE  
THEIR FACES!



YOU LOOK TOO COMELY  
A DAMSEL TO COVER  
YOUR FACE! OFF  
WITH THE VEIL!





AND THAT NIGHT, A WISELY PLACED DINAR BROUGHT SINARA AN AUDIENCE WITH HER BROTHER...

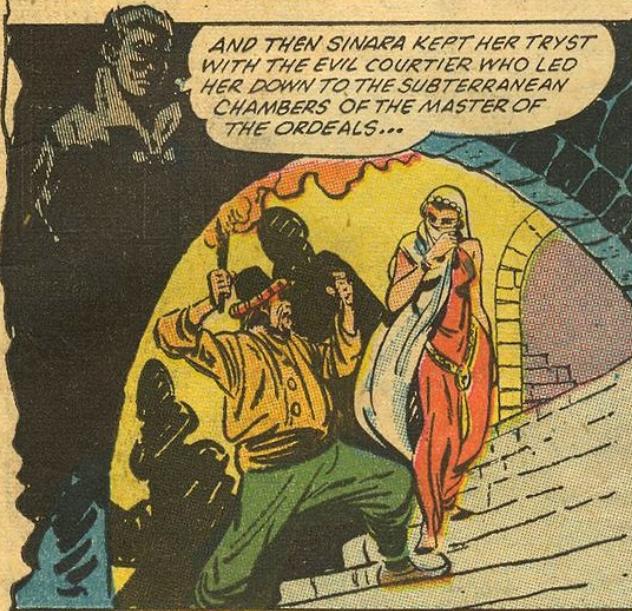


NEVER MIND HOW I WILL KNOW, BUT WATCH ME CLOSELY ON THE MORROW! WHICHEVER CHEEK I BRUSH WITH MY HAND WILL BE THE SIDE WITH THE JAR WITH THE JEWEL! NOW I MUST GO! GOOD NIGHT!

YOU GIVE ME NEW LIFE, DEAR SISTER!



AND THEN SINARA KEPT HER TRYST WITH THE EVIL COURTIER WHO LED HER DOWN TO THE SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBERS OF THE MASTER OF THE ORDEALS...



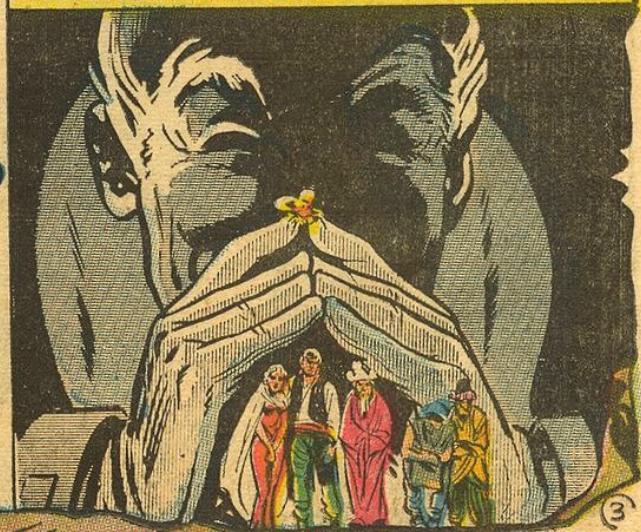
AYE! GENEROUS AND NOBLE LADY, THE RIGHT JAR WILL BE THE SAFE ONE WITH THE JEWEL! THE RIGHT JAR!



MY THANKS AND BLESSINGS! TAKE MY PURSE WITH PLEASURE! NOW I MUST RETURN TO THE PALACE BEFORE I AM MISSED!



AND THUS, WE'VE SET THE STAGE! A CALM KONI, A JOYOUS SINARA, A COVETOUS KING AND TWO GREEDY HENCHMEN... ALL WAITING FOR THE MORROW... WHILE STILL UNBORN, A LITTLE FLY MAKES READY TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES, ONE AFTER ANOTHER...



THE NEXT DAY SAW ALL THE POMP AND SPLENDOR THAT ONLY AN ORIENTAL COURT COULD CONCEIVE. WHILE THE FAITHFUL SUBJECTS OF THE KING SOUGHT THEIR PLACES, THE KING'S MASTER OF ORDEALS BENT OVER HIS TASK OF PREPARING THE JARS!

NOW DON'T FORGET... THE SNAKE IN THE CORRECT JAR!

HAH! IT WAS A GREAT TRICK OUR KING PUT US UP TO!



BEHOLD, O MIGHTY ONE! THE JARS APPEAR!

GOOD! NO OFFENSE, MY DEAR, BUT I HOPE YOUR BROTHER MISSES! I'VE BEEN LOSING TOO MANY JEWELS OF LATE!

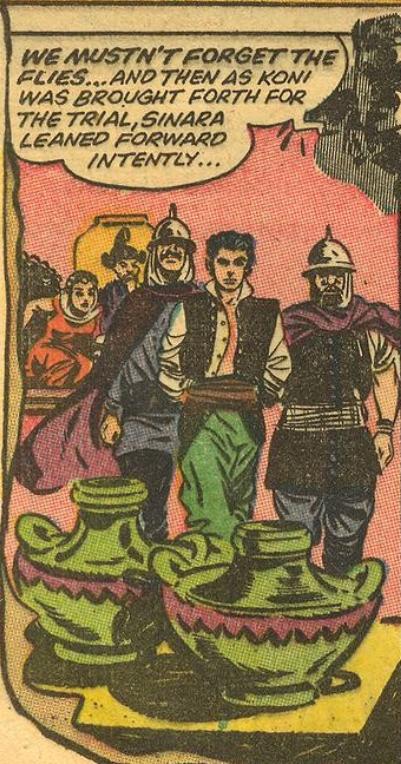
WITH A SLY WINK TO SINARA, THE MASTER PLACED THE JARS ON THE DAIS... AS FLIES KEPT BUZZIN' ALL AROUND...



WE MUSTN'T FORGET THE FLIES... AND THEN AS KONI WAS BROUGHT FORTH FOR THE TRIAL, SINARA LEANED FORWARD INTENTLY...

AND AS KONI GLANCED UP, SHE FLASHED HIM THE SIGNAL, BUT A GUARD ACCIDENTALLY FELL IN HIS PATH OF VISION!

HE DIDN'T SEE MY SIGNAL! OH! WHY DON'T THEY GET OUT OF THE WAY?



AS SINARA FRANTICALLY TRIED TO CATCH KONI'S EYE, FATE STEPPED IN... BRINGING ALONG OUR FRIEND, THE FLY...

A LITTLE NUDGE AND MR. FLY WAS MAKING HIMSELF AN UNHOLY PEST ON SINARA'S LEFT CHEEK!

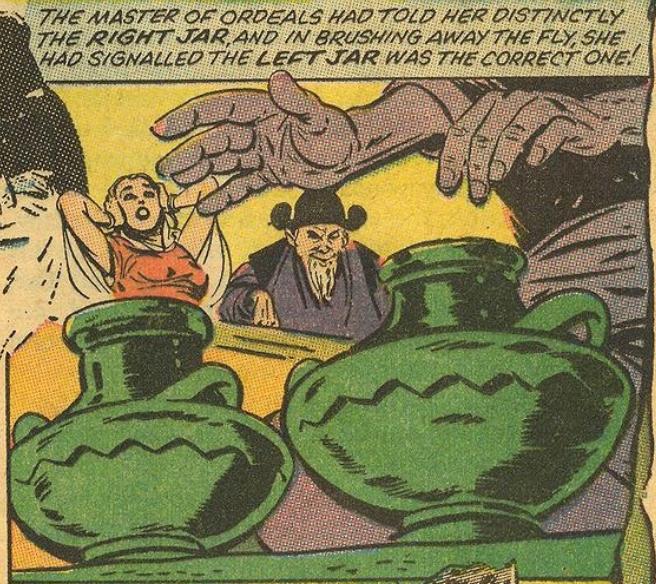
I WAS A BUSY BOY THERE FOR A MINUTE! AS SINARA CONCENTRATED ON THE FLY FATE TURNED KONI'S HEAD!

AND HE LOOKED UP JUST IN TIME TO SEE SINARA TOUCH HER LEFT CHEEK!



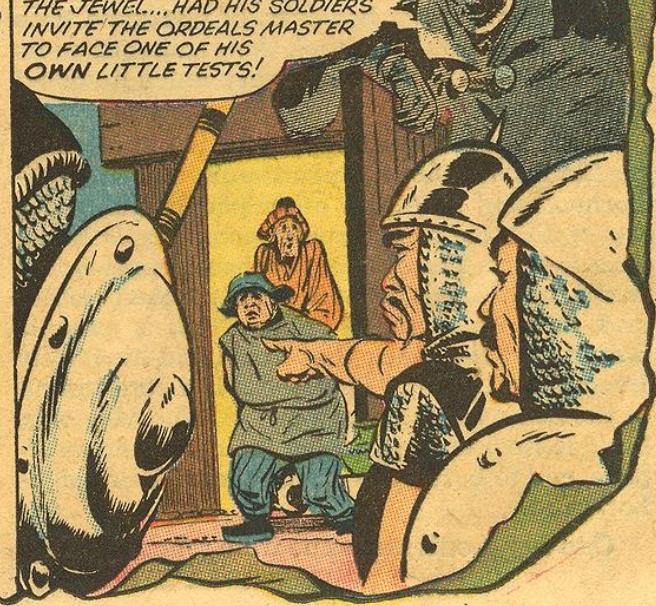
THE GUARDS ROUGHLY JERKED KONI AROUND AGAIN... AROUND BEFORE SINARA COULD CORRECT THE AWFUL SIGN...

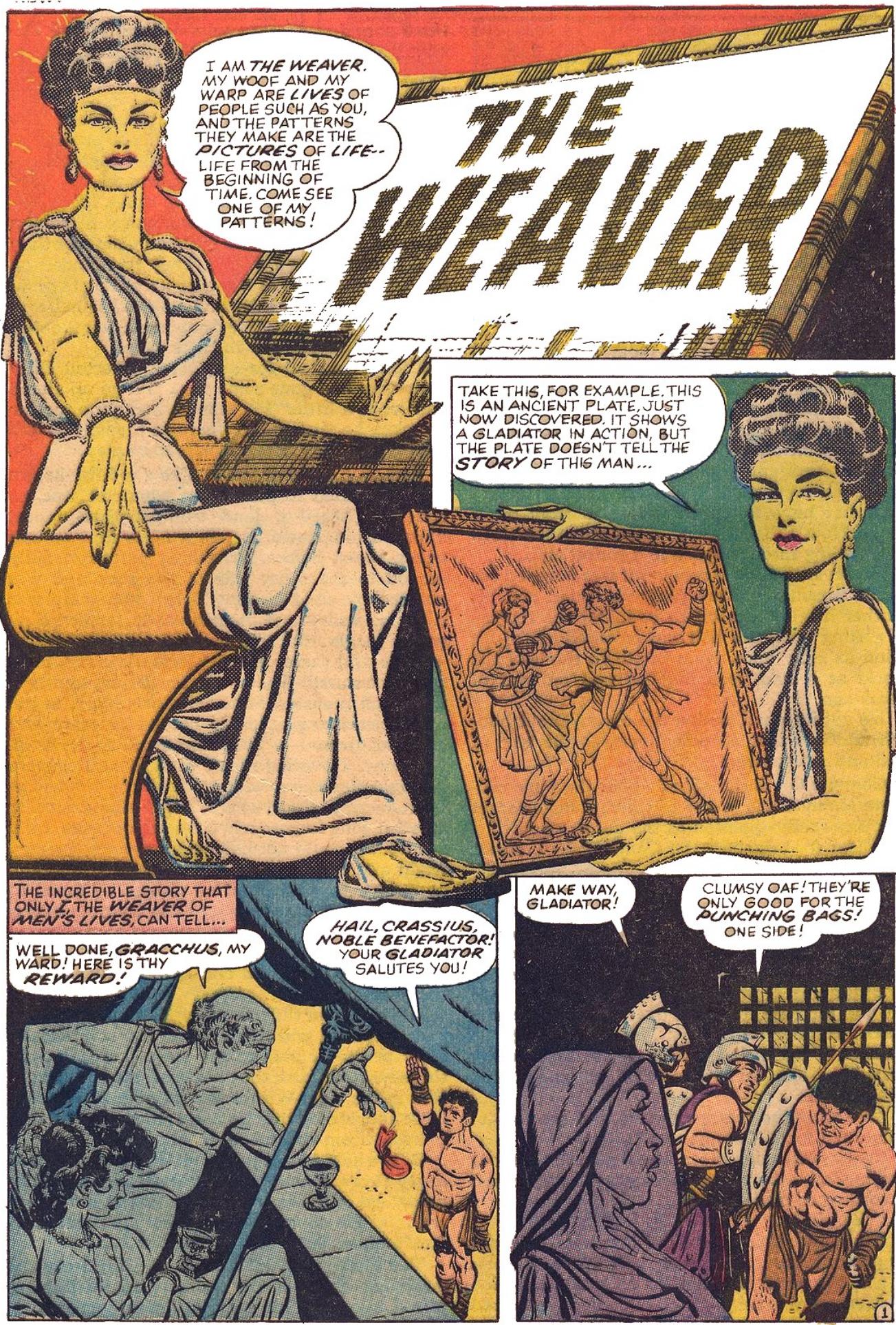
THE MASTER OF ORDEALS HAD TOLD HER DISTINCTLY THE RIGHT JAR AND IN BRUSHING AWAY THE FLY, SHE HAD SIGNALLED THE LEFT JAR WAS THE CORRECT ONE!

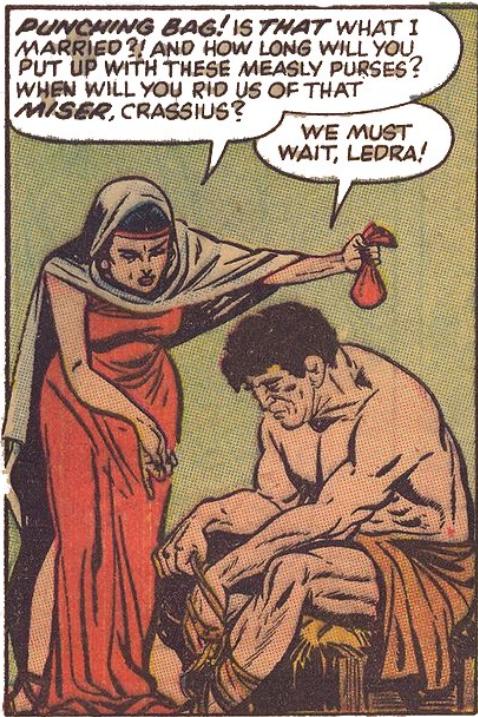


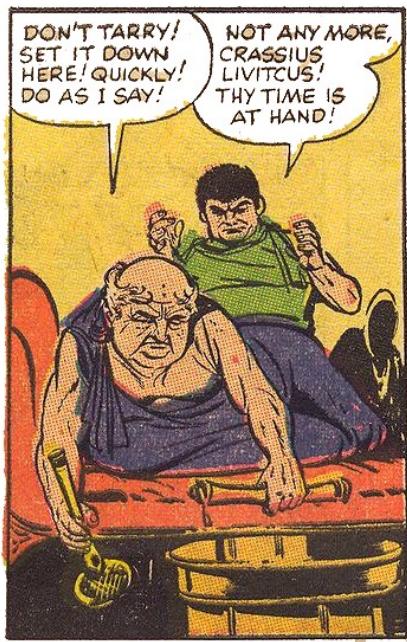
SHE WAS SENDING HER BROTHER TO HIS DEATH... BUT KONI CONFIDENTLY PLUNGED HIS HAND INTO THE JAR, AND PLUCKED OUT... THE JEWEL!

AND SO, KONI AND SINARA WERE SET FREE... AND THE KING, vexed OVER HIS LOSS OF SINARA... AND THE JEWEL... HAD HIS SOLDIERS INVITE THE ORDEALS MASTER TO FACE ONE OF HIS OWN LITTLE TESTS!

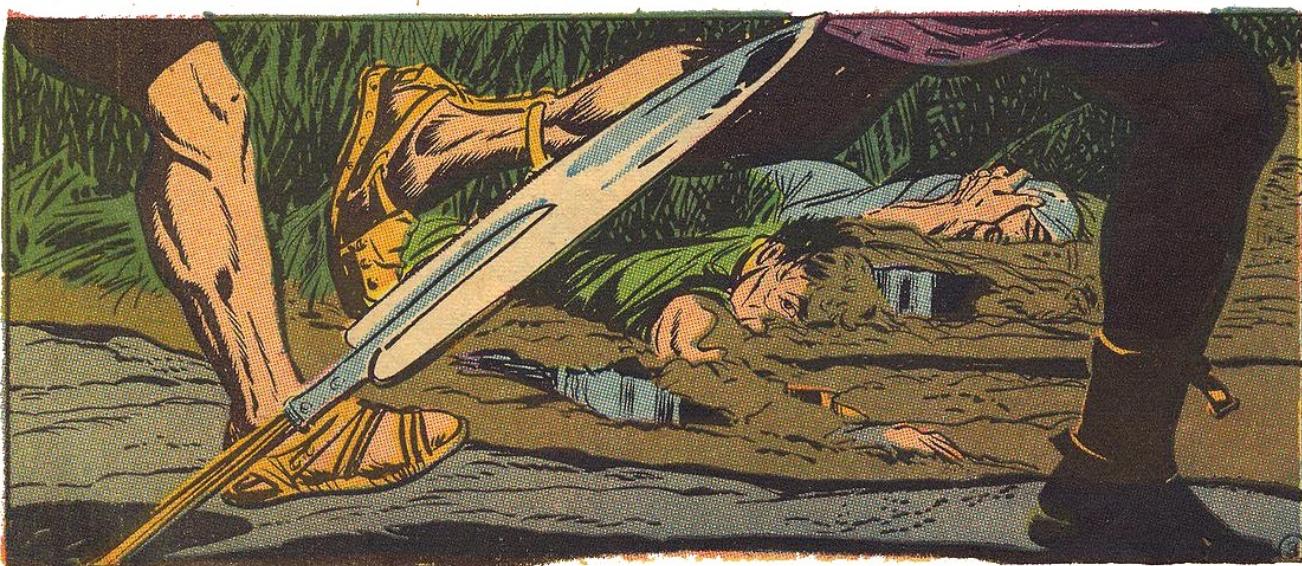


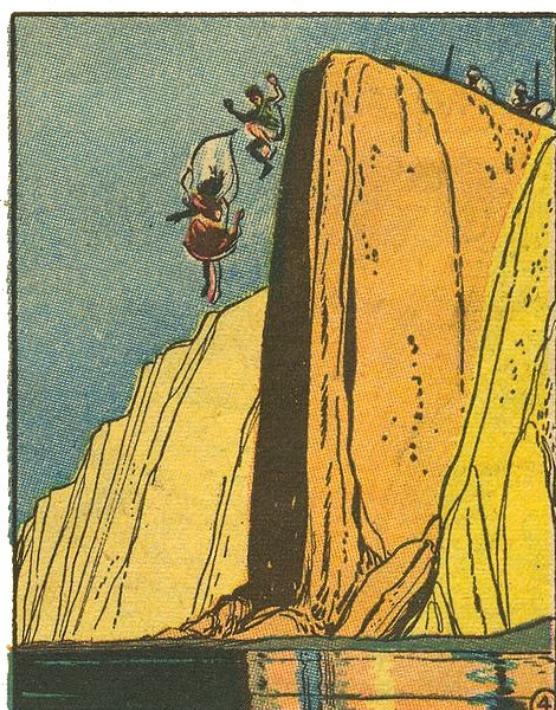
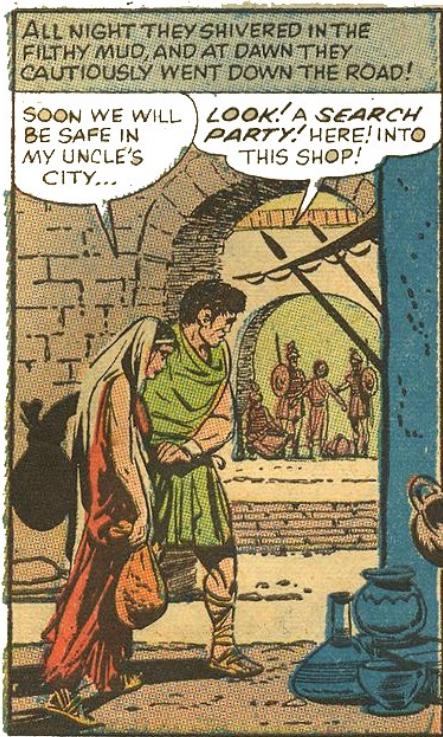






BUT HE DID, AND MOMENTS LATER...









THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE  
THEY KNOW THEIR FATE...AND  
TRUSTING IN IT TAKE A LITTLE  
ADVANTAGE OF IT. ONE SUCH  
PERSON WAS LEE DI POLO... AND  
A WHEEL, A CAN OF OIL, AND  
MR. DI POLO MAKE FOR AN  
UNCANNY STORY OF THE  
HAND OF FATE!

# MAN in BLACK

## CRACK-UP!



OH, LEE! IT'S  
SO DANGEROUS!  
WON'T YOU GIVE  
UP RACING? I  
BEG YOU!

HONEY...HONEY,  
NOTHING WILL  
HAPPEN TO ME...  
NOTHING CAN!  
I KNOW! I  
JUST KNOW!

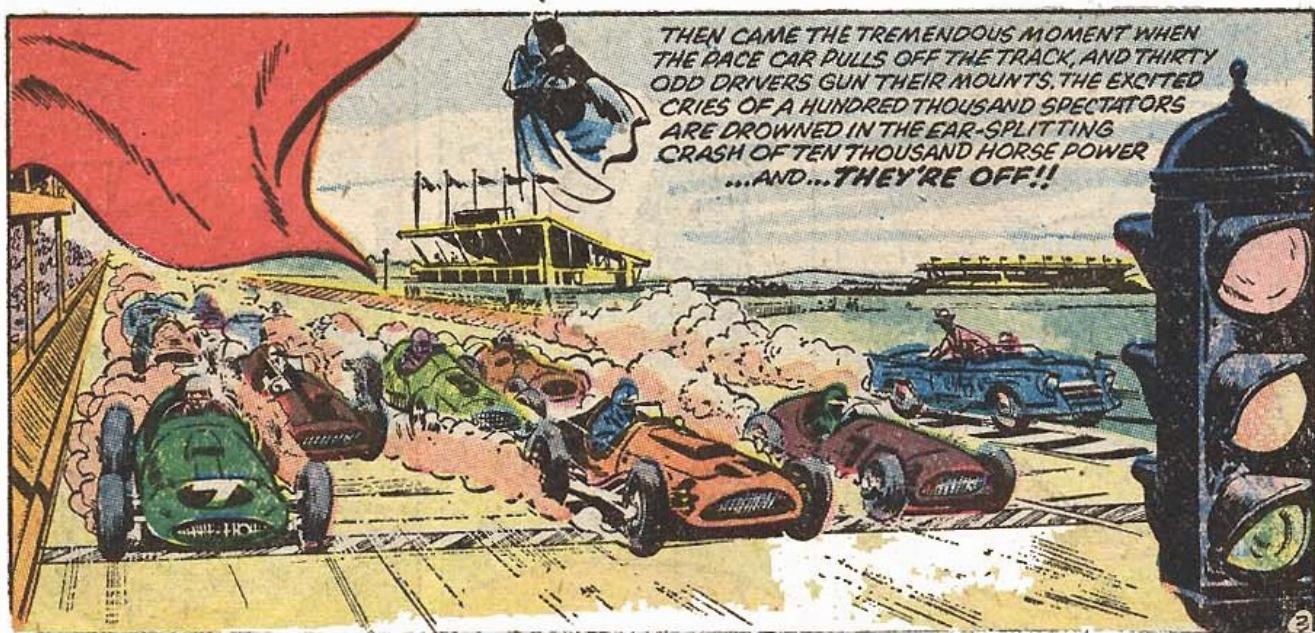
THAT'S NONSENSE!  
WHY, ANYTHING  
COULD HAPPEN!  
ONE BAD  
BREAK FROM  
FATE  
AND....!

THAT'S  
JUST IT!  
I KNOW  
MY FATE!  
THERE WON'T  
BE ANY BAD  
BREAKS!

SO YOU SEE  
THE POSITION  
THAT PUTS  
FATE INTO!  
HMM...?



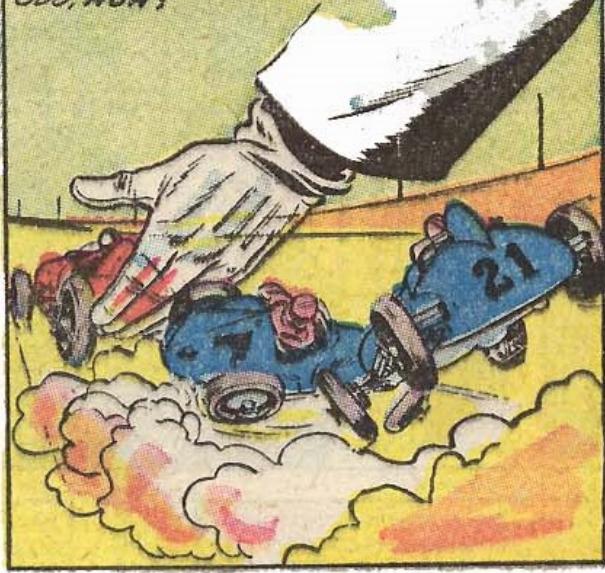




AS USUAL, TROUBLE FOUND LEE WHEN THE CAR AHEAD SHED A WHEEL... IT WAS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE MIDDLE OF HIS HOOD WHEN IT STRANGELY DEFLECTED... REVERSE TORQUE AND PARALLAX ENERGY IS THE WAY THE HIGH DOMES "EXPLAINED" IT'S CRAZY DOUBLE ARC OF FLIGHT... BUT WE KNOW, EH?



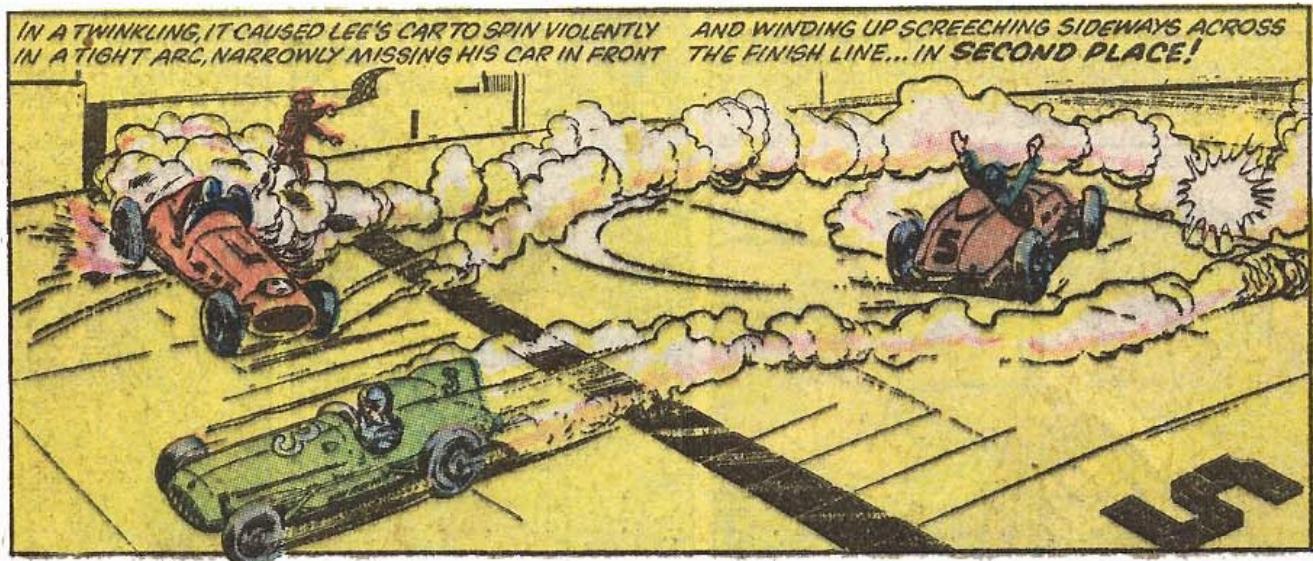
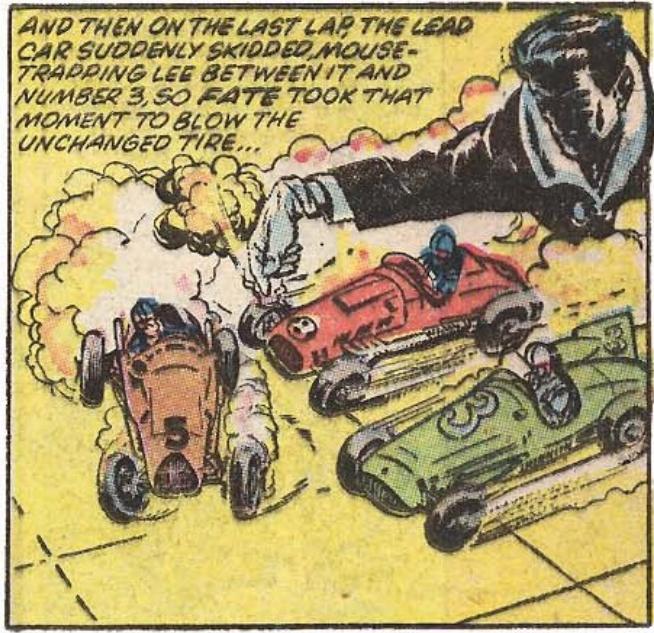
THEN ANOTHER CAR SPUN AND CRASHED INTO A RIVAL AND SHOULD HAVE CREAMED LEE'S REAR DECK, BUT ALL IT DID WAS GIVE HIM A BIG PUSH TO THE FRONT OF THE PACK... ODD, HUH?



GET SET! LEE'S COMIN' IN FOR GAS AND A TIRE CHANGE... USE THAT NEW WHEEL!

THE CRACKED WHEEL? OH, NO!





# THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED

PART 1

MUCH OF HISTORY HAS BEEN DECIDED BY A WHIM OF FATE... AND HERE IS AN EPISODE THAT WAS INFLUENCED ENTIRELY BY A LITTLE CHUNK OF TIRED OLD ROCK!

WHAT CAN WE DO? WE'LL BE HELPLESS BEFORE HIS ARMY!

ONCE THE GENERAL CROSSES THE RIVER ALL IS LOST! THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IS AT AN END UNLESS OUR ARMIES CAN STOP HIM!

HA! OUR ARMIES COULDN'T HOLD BACK A FLEA! CASSIUS IS RIGHT! IF HE CROSSES THE RIVER, ALL IS LOST! HOWEVER THE SPRING THAW HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY THIS YEAR AND THE RIVER IS A RAGING DEMON! FATE AND FLOOD MAY SAVE US YET!

FATE... AND FLOOD... WELL, PERHAPS... MEANWHILE...

NONSENSE! THE GREATEST SOLDIERS IN THE WORLD WON'T LET A LITTLE WATER STOP THEM AT THIS LATE DATE! ONWARD, MEN! MARCH!

FLOODED! WE'LL NEVER GET ACROSS THAT RIVER, GENERAL!

BRAVELY RECKLESSLY, THE MEN FOLLOWED THEIR LEADER INTO THE CHURNING WATER... AND ANIMAL AND MAN, SOLDIER AND GENERAL WERE GRIPPED, BEATEN AND FORCED BACK BY THE ANGRY RIVER... WEAPONS, MATERIEL AND LIVES WERE LOST...

THE MIGHTY GENERAL AND HIS ARMY WERE CRUSHED AND GREAT WAS THE JUBILATION IN THE CITY... WHEN THE VICTORIOUS LEGIONS MARCHED HOME IN TRIUMPH!

WELL, THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED... BUT... !?

## THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED

PART 2

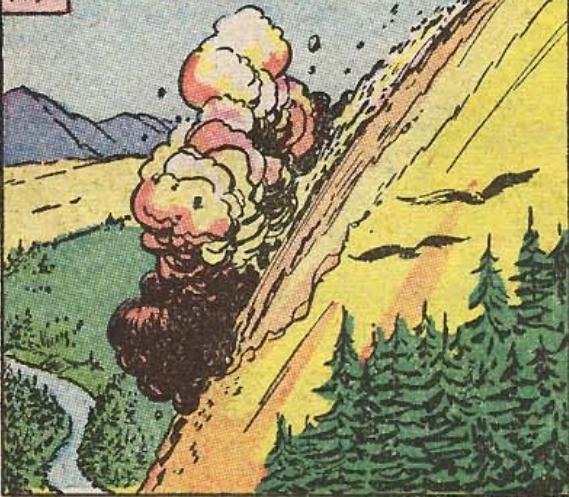
IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED THAT WAY... BUT IT DIDN'T! AND IT DIDN'T BECAUSE OF THIS LITTLE OLD ROCK MENTIONED EARLIER. IT'S AN ORDINARY COMMON TYPE STONE WHOSE HOME WAS HIGH IN THE FOOT HILLS...

THE SNOWS HAD BEEN HEAVY THAT WINTER AND AN EARLY HOT SPRING SENT MANY TINY RIVULETS EATING AWAY AT THE RESISTANT ROCKS... IN PARTICULAR OUR ROCK...

STUBBORNLY IT HELD, BUT AT LAST THE RELENTLESS, GREEDY WATER ERODED THE SURROUNDING SOIL AND IT FELL...



AND A GREAT FALL IT WAS INDEED... FOR AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, OUR ROCK WAS THE KEY STONE FOR TONS OF LOOSE SHALE AND ROCK THAT MERRILY TUMBLED DOWN BEHIND IT!



AND SOMETIME LATER, A GENERAL CAME TO A RIVER WITH HIS ARMY... ALL OF THEM BEING MENTIONED EARLIER.

I'VE NEVER SEEN THE RIVER THIS LOW! TO CROSS WILL BE NOTHING!

AYE! FATE CAUSING THAT AVALANCHE HAS MADE OUR ADVANCE ALMOST TOO EASY! ORDER THE MEN TO CROSS, TRIBUNE!



THE GREATEST FIGHTING MEN IN THE WORLD... SOON THE WORLD WILL BE OURS! AND THIS CROSSING... BY THE GODS! AS IF FATE INTENDED OUR MEETING WITH DESTINY TO BE MADE EASY!



WE HAVE CROSSED THE RUBICON! THE DIE IS CAST! ONWARD TO THE CITY!



AND THE CITY, AS YOUR HISTORY BOOKS WILL TELL YOU, WAS ROME... AND THE GENERAL, JULIUS CAESAR, WHO MARCHED THAT DAY TO OVERTHROW A WEAK, CORRUPT GOVERNMENT AND BECOME THE FIRST OF THE GREAT... AND NOT SO GREAT... ROMAN EMPERORS! CAESAR IMPERATOR! RULER OF THE WORLD!... BECAUSE OF AN OVERGROWN PEBBLE!



## MAN in BLACK

HERE, YOU SEE A CURIOUS BEAR...A LOST EMERGENCY FLARE AND AN ASSASSIN'S GUN... THEY SEEM UNRELATED, DON'T THEY? BUT FATE PUT THEM TOGETHER TO CHANGE HISTORY!



# MENACE on the IRON HORSE

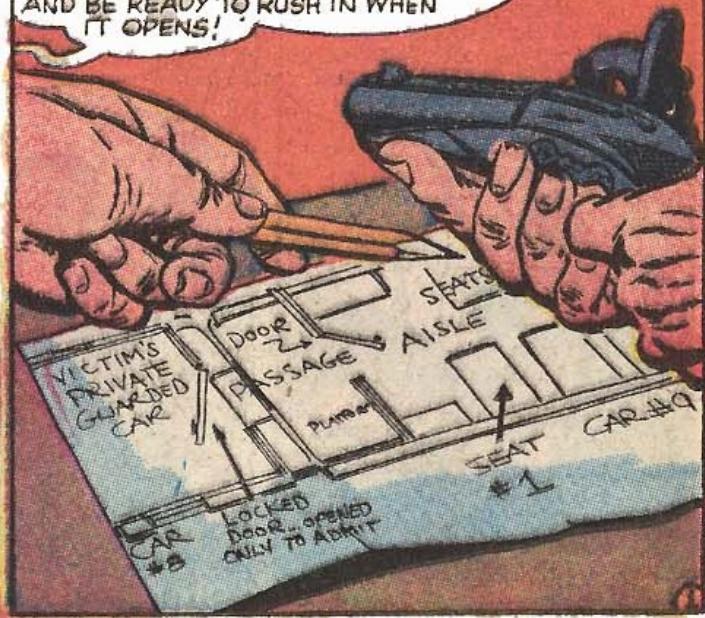
WE NEED SOMEONE WHO FEELS AS WE DO, JOHN - SOMEONE LIKE YOU! ARE YOU WILLING TO TRY TO KILL "HIM"?

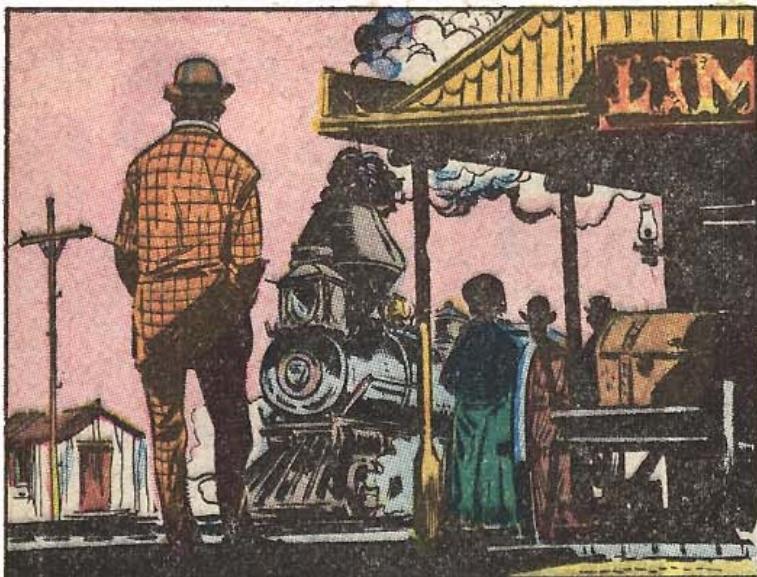
FOR THE PRICE YE QUOTE, AYE! WHAT'S YER PLAN?



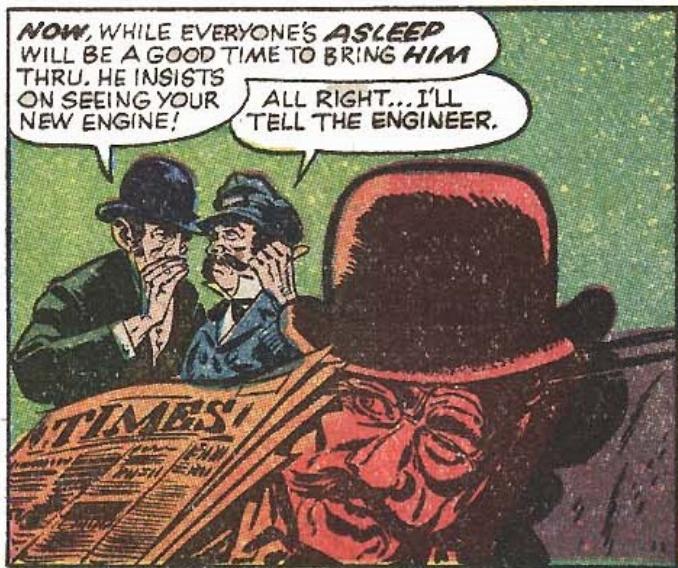
HE'LL BE IN CAR 8 OF THE SHILOH EXPRESS TRAIN BEHIND A CLOSED DOOR AND SURROUNDED BY BODYGUARDS. ONLY ONCE WILL THAT DOOR BE OPENED... THAT'S WHEN THE WAITER COMES IN WITH THE DINNER... YOU SIT IN SEAT ONE OF CAR 9 SO YOU CAN WATCH THE DOOR AND BE READY TO RUSH IN WHEN IT OPENS!

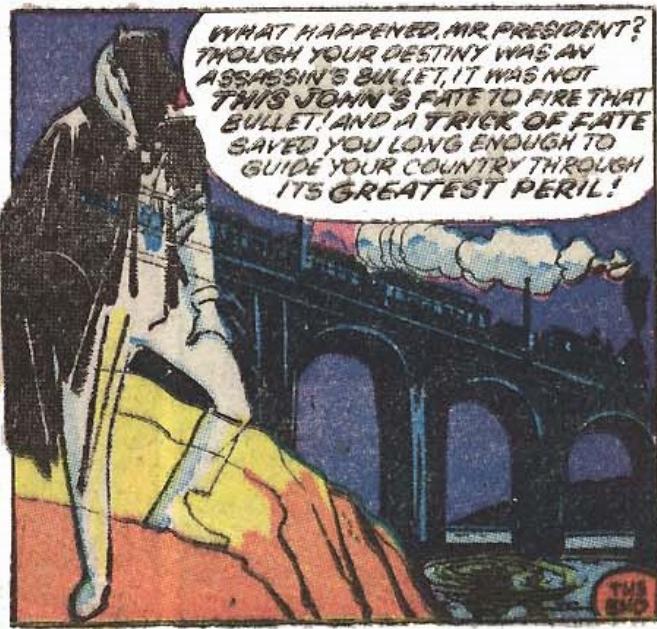
AYE!  
CAR 9  
SEAT 1,  
GOTCHA!



















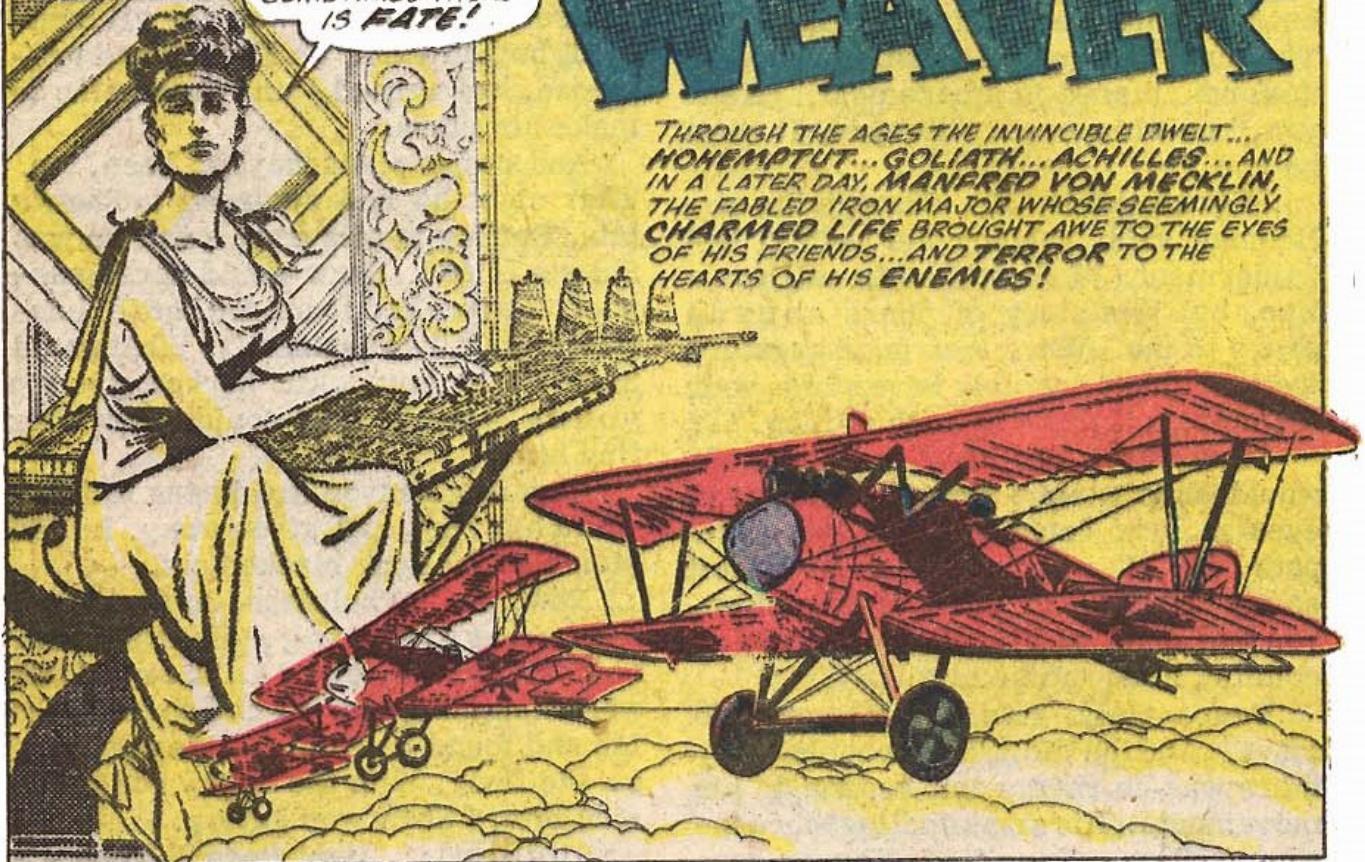


# THE INDESTRUCTIBLE ONE

'TIS SAID THAT SOME MEN ARE UNBEATABLE, INVINCIBLE, AND THAT I, THE WEAVER, SPINNING OUT THE THREADS OF PEOPLE'S LIVES ON MY THREE LOOMS OF LIFE, DEATH AND HEREAFTER, MAKE IT SO! PERHAPS, BUT SOMETIMES THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS, OTHER FORCES... AND SOMETIMES THERE IS FATE!

## Starring **THE WEAVER**

THROUGH THE AGES THE INVINCIBLE DWELT... HOHEMOTUT... GOLIATH... ACHILLES... AND IN A LATER DAY, MANFRED VON MECKLIN, THE FABLED IRON MAJOR WHOSE SEEMINGLY CHARMED LIFE BROUGHT AWE TO THE EYES OF HIS FRIENDS... AND TERROR TO THE HEARTS OF HIS ENEMIES!



FRANCE, IN THE LATE SPRING OF 1917... AT THE BRITISH AERODROME, RHEIMS...

OUR NEW PLANES HERE AT LAST!

RIGHT-O! WE'LL BE ON EVEN TERMS WITH VON MECKLIN NOW!



WHAT DO YOU THINK, CORPORAL? BETTER, SIR! THE D-3'S ARE THESE SHIPS AS WON'T BE ABLE GOOD AS TO TOUCH VON MECKLIN'S THESE ALBATROSES?



WHY LOOK'ERE AT TH' DETAIL AN' WORKMANSHIP, SIR! EVEN, THIS OIL DRAIN CAP IS MACHINED! COUPLE OF THESE BEAUTIES WITH TH' BEST PILOTS IN TH' WORLD, SIR, AN-



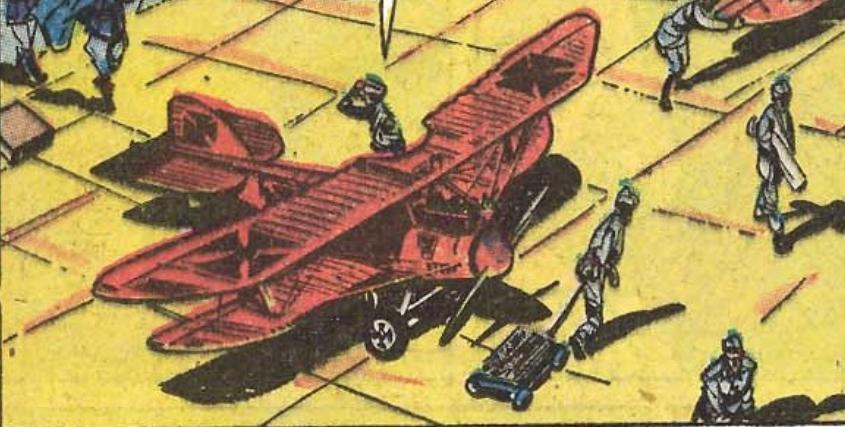
JAGDSTAFFEN NUMBER 26, JAGDOESCHWADER III...  
SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY, THE SAME MORNING...

GÜTEN MORGEN,  
PUTZI, ALL READY?

JAWOHL, HERR  
VON MECKLIN!  
ANOTHER DAY,  
ANOTHER VICTORY!

AH, PUTZI, HOW MANY TIMES  
HAVE YOU SAID  
THAT TO ME?

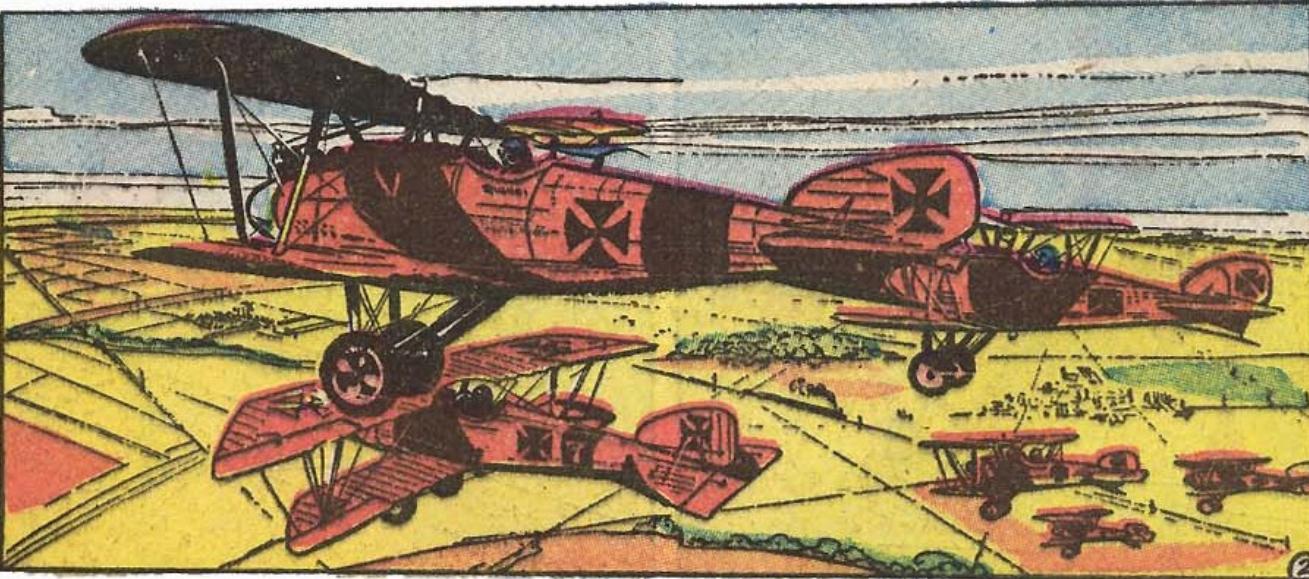
SEVENTY-  
FIFTY?  
SEVENTY-  
TWO, SIR, AND  
EACH TIME IT  
BRINGS YOU BACK  
SAFELY!



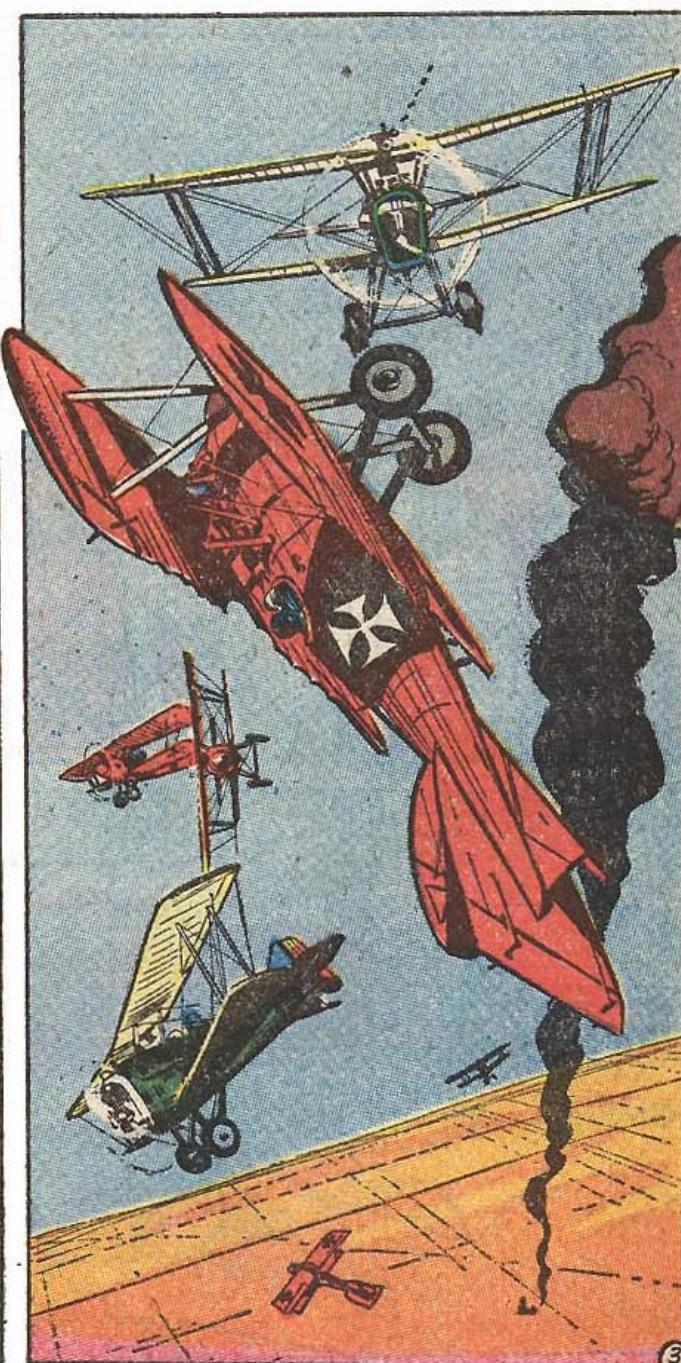
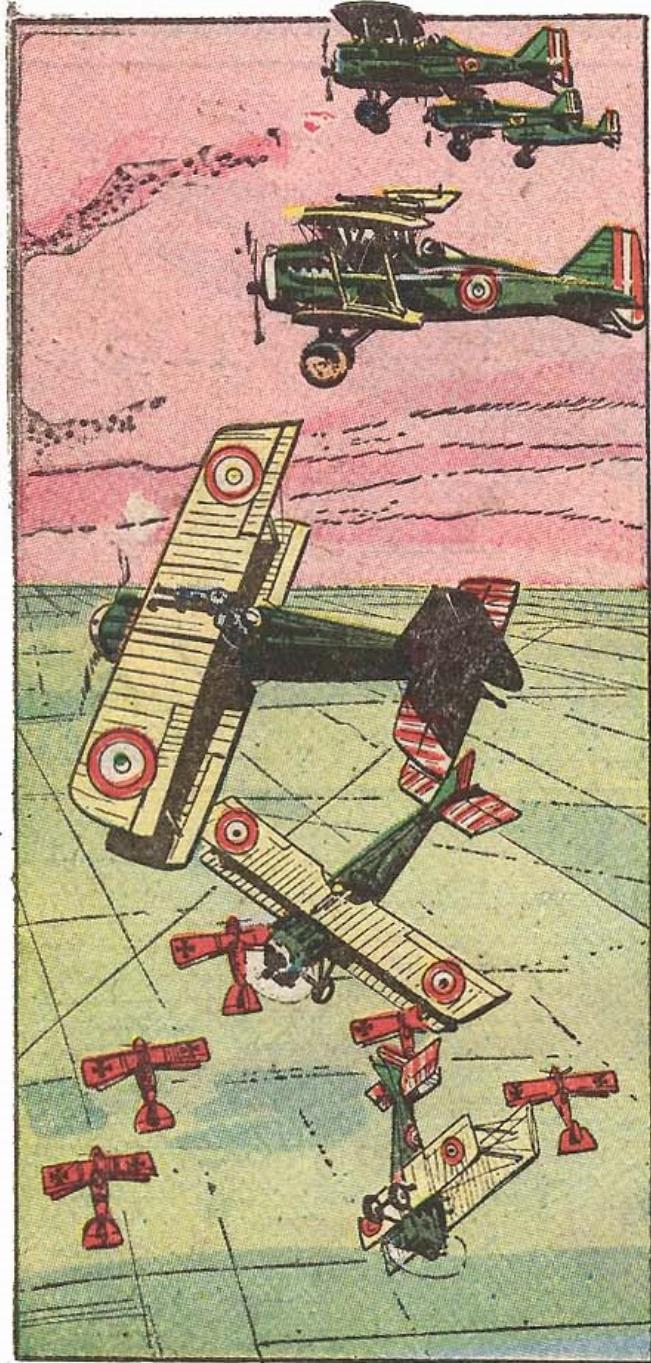
(2)

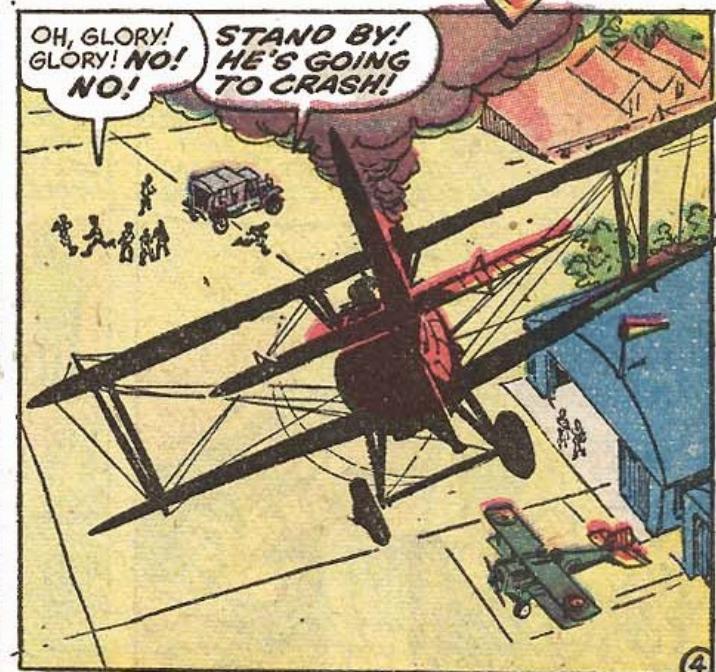
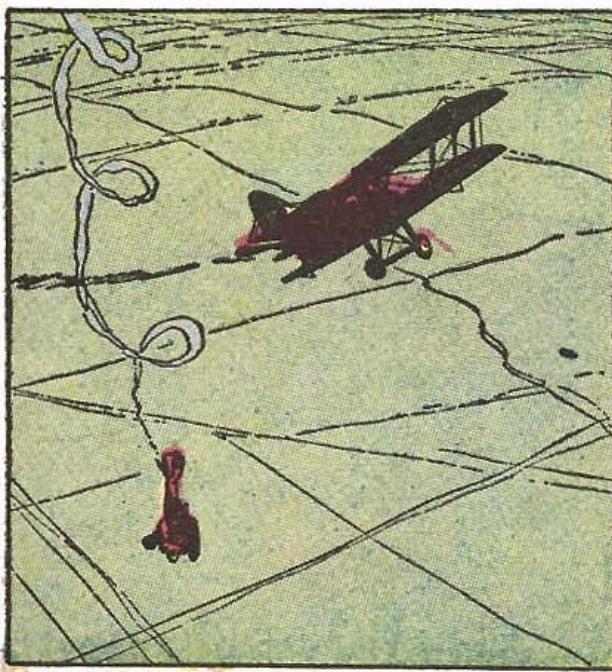
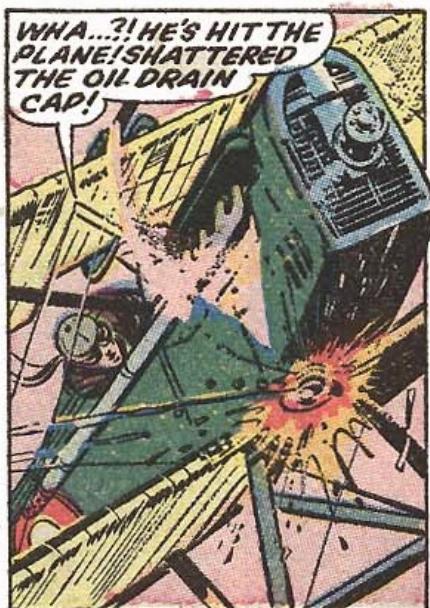
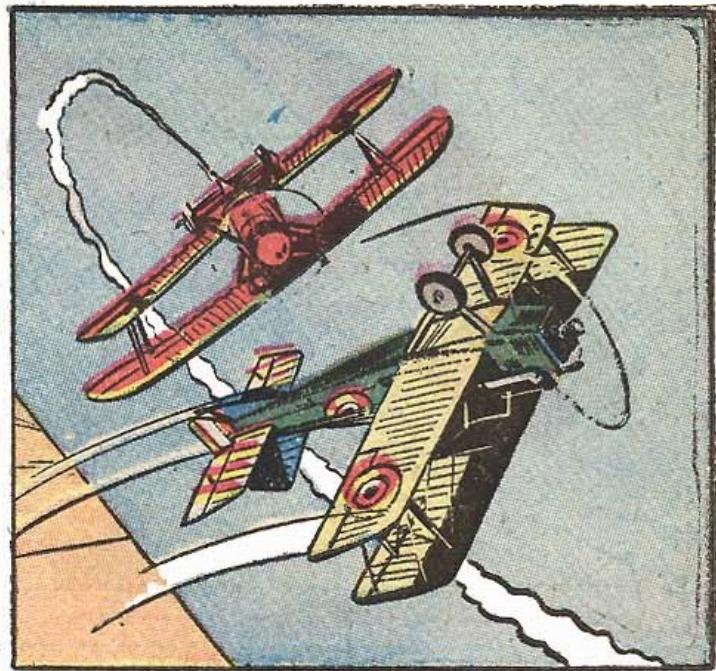
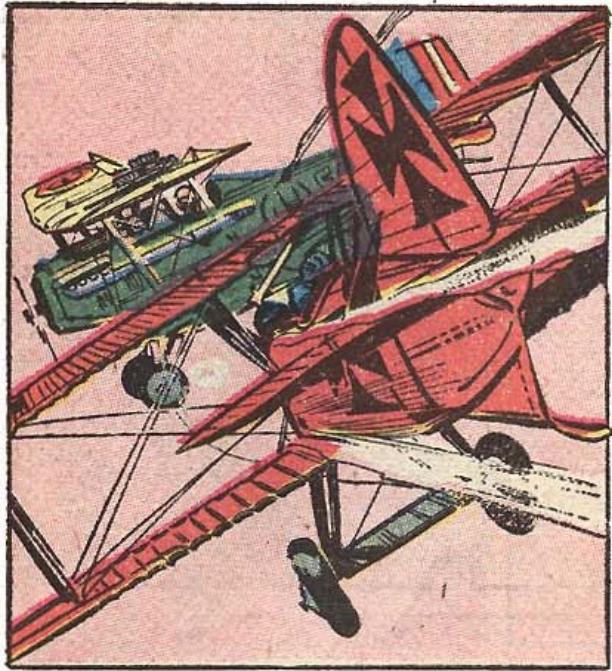
NO, MY FRIEND! THIS IS  
WHAT BRINGS ME BACK  
EACH TIME! ACH - BUT  
SOMEDAY... SOMEDAY  
EVEN THESE WILL  
FAIL ME!

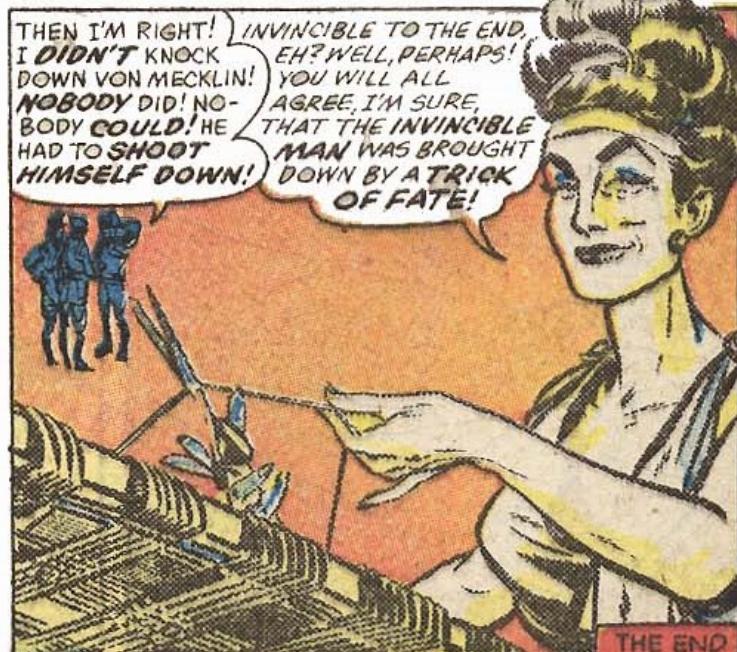
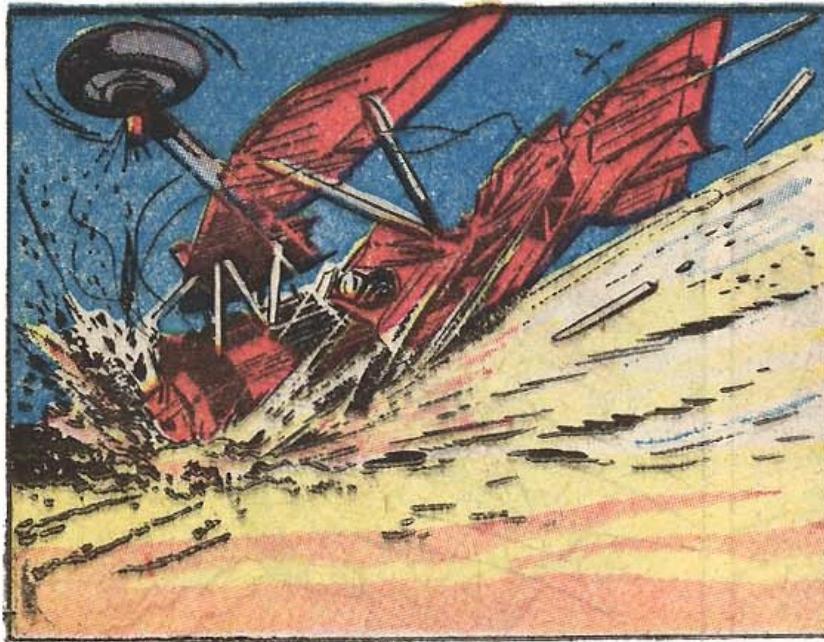
PERHAPS TODAY! WHO  
KNOWS? ONLY FATE  
CAN TELL! AUF WEIDER  
SEEN, PUTZI!

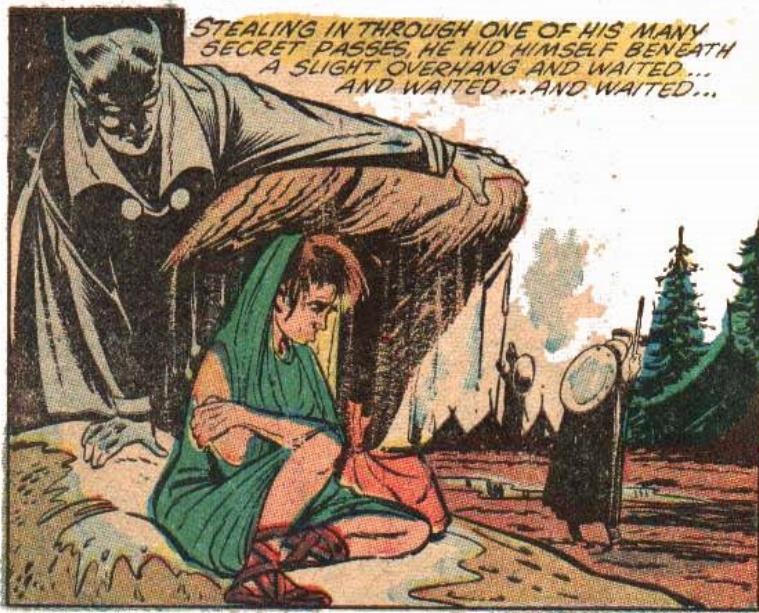


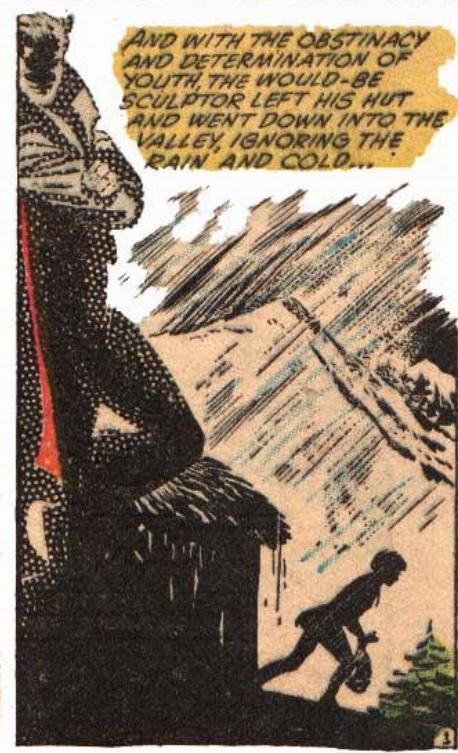
(2)



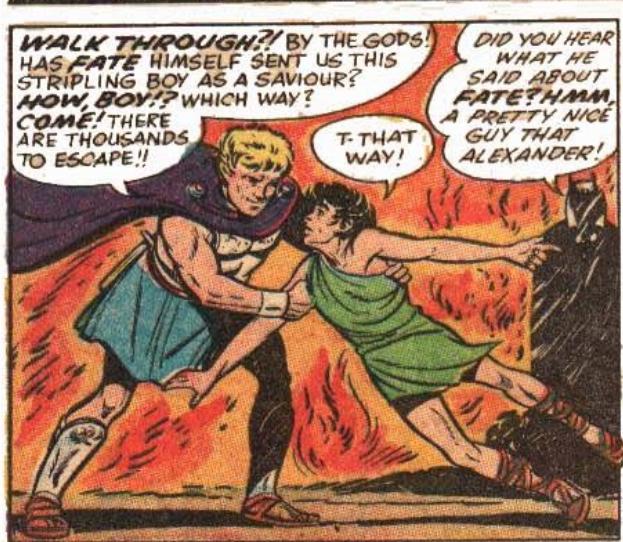


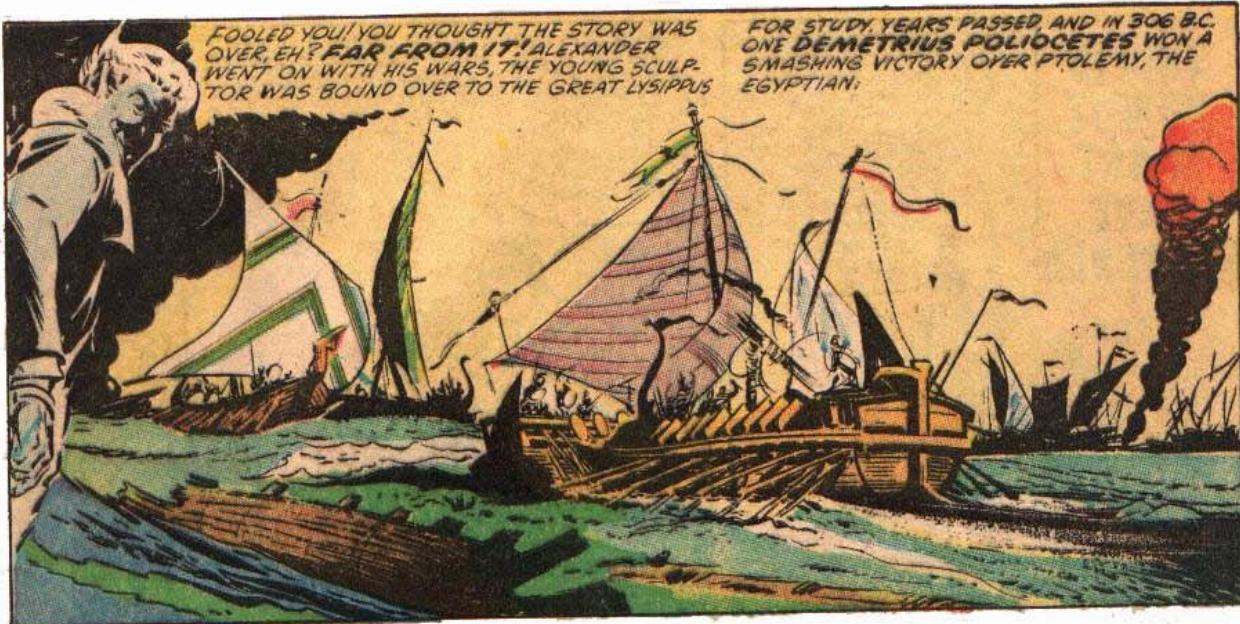






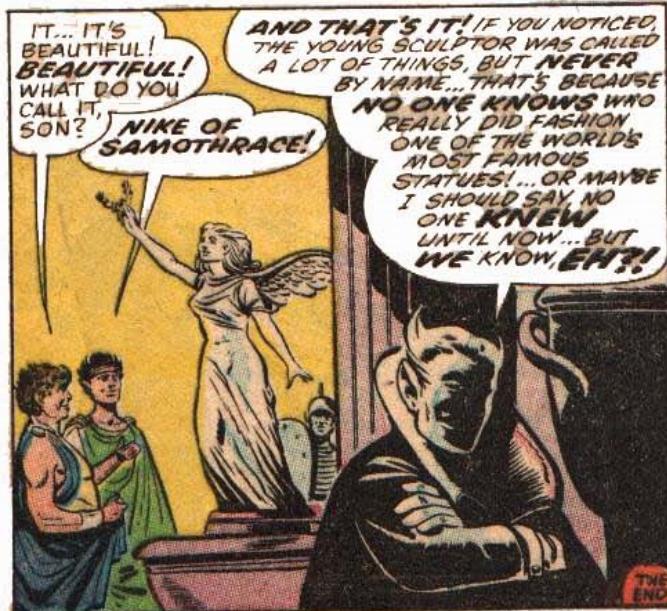
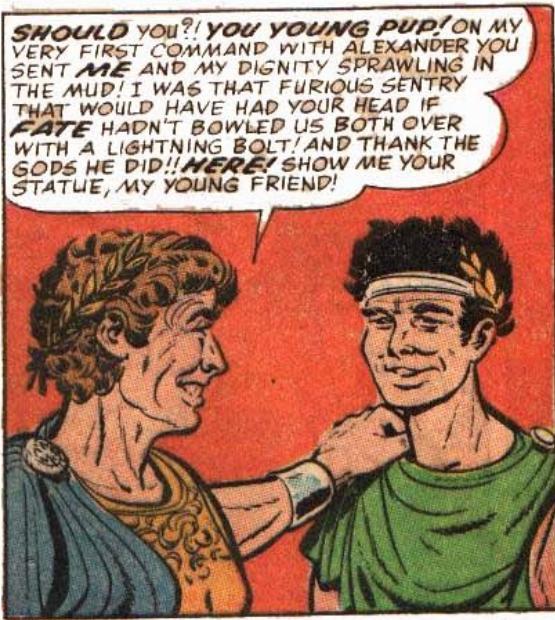
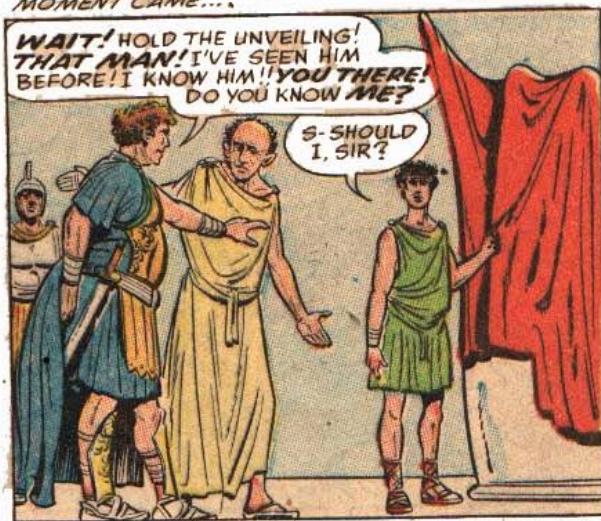
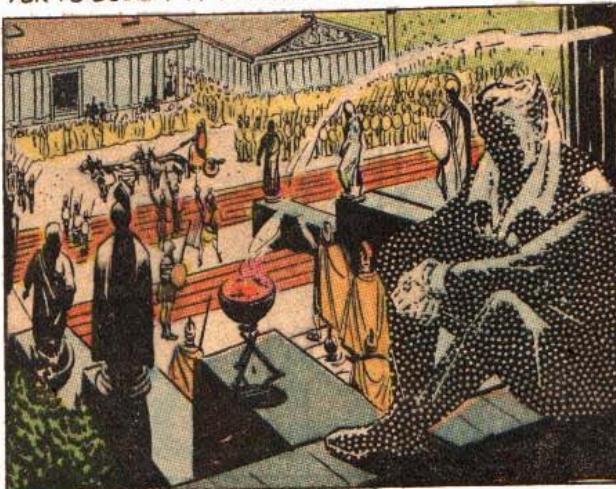






THE POPULACE, OF COURSE, WENT ALL OUT TO WELCOME HOME THE CONQUERING HERO, MAKING A PARADE DOWN WALL STREET LOOK LIKE AN AIR RAID DRILL! WHY, THEY EVEN COMMISSIONED THE LEADING SCULPTOR TO SCULPT A SPECIAL STATUE TO THE VICTORY!

THE TOWN FATHERS COULD HARDLY WAIT TO SHOW DEMETRIUS THE STATUE AND KIND OF HURRIED THROUGH THE REST OF THE SHOW... FINALLY, THE MOMENT CAME...



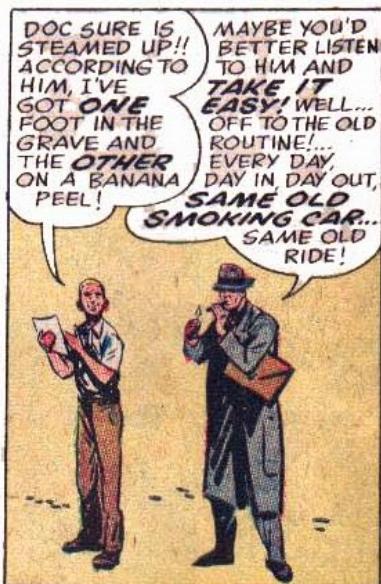
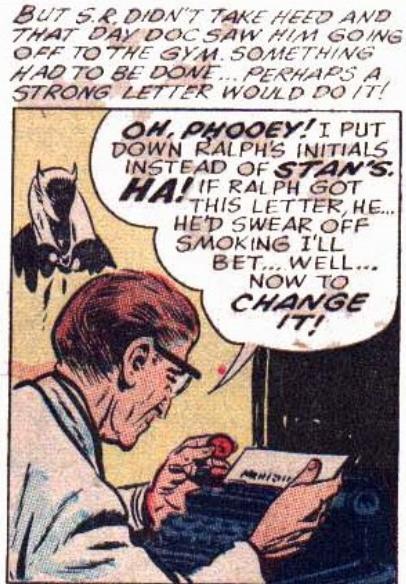
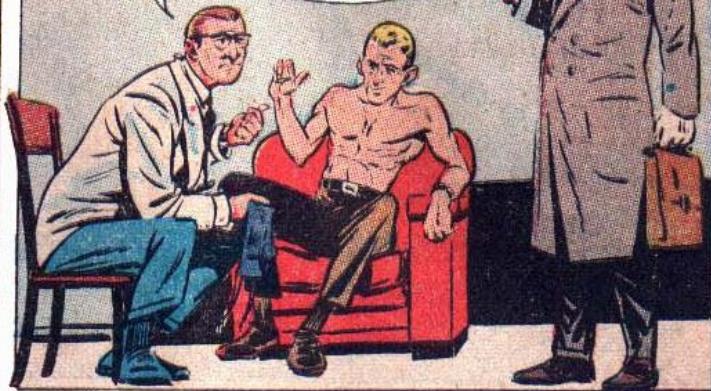
# THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED

PART 1

DID YOU EVER CONSIDER HOW LITTLE THINGS CAN CHANGE A WHOLE SERIES OF EVENTS? EVEN BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH? HERE'S A STORY TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT... IT'S OF TWO BROTHERS WITH THE SAME INITIALS EXCEPT IN REVERSE!

MAYBE YOU CAN CONVINCE S.R., R.S.! TELL HIM THAT WEAK TICKER OF HIS WON'T TAKE THE PUNISHMENT HE'S GIVING IT MUCH LONGER!

DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T TRIED! BUT YOU KNOW STANLEY ROBERT, DOCTORNEY STUBBORN! WELL, I'VE GOTTA GO! I'M OFF TO THE JOYS OF THE SMOKING CAR AND THE LONG ISLAND RAILROAD!



SAME OLD CAR PERHAPS... BUT IT WASN'T THE SAME OLD RIDE... FOR ON THAT NOVEMBER DAY IN 1950 OCCURRED ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC ACCIDENTS IN COMMUTER TRAIN HISTORY.



AND AS IN MANY, MANY HOMES THAT NIGHT, SORROW LAY HEAVY IN THE COE HOUSE...



## THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED

PART 2

WELL, IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED THAT WAY... **BUT IT DIDN'T!** S.R. COE'S SIMPLE INITIALS, BUT SO EASILY TRANSPOSED... SO EASILY REVERSED... AND SO EASILY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!! THIS STORY STARTS OUT LIKE THE OTHER ONE...

...BUT BEGINS TO CHANGE WHEN WE GET TO THE PART WHERE THE DOCTOR SEES S.R. GOING TO THE GYM...

THE YOUNG FOOL! MAYBE A STRONGLY WORDED LETTER WILL MAKE AN IMPRESSION! IT'S WORTH THE TRY!

AND LIKE THE LAST TIME, THE DOCTOR MADE THE SAME MISTAKE!

BUT BEFORE THE DOCTOR COULD MAKE THE CORRECTION, A NURSE BURST INTO HIS OFFICE...

THERE THE MISADDRESSED ENVELOPE WAS SITTING WHEN THE DOCTOR'S PRETTY RECEPTIONIST CHANCED BY...

OH, PHOOEY! I PUT DOWN RALPH'S INITIALS INSTEAD OF STAN'S! HA!! IF RALPH GOT THIS LETTER HE'D SWEAR OFF SMOKING, I'LL BET... WELL... NOW TO CHANGE IT...

DOCTOR! EMERGENCY! PLEASE HURRY!

COMING!

I MIGHT AS WELL MAIL THIS LETTER ALONG WITH THESE OTHERS...

AND SO IT WAS MAILED... MAILED TO R.S. COE... RALPH COE... INSTEAD OF S.R. COE FOR WHOM IT WAS INTENDED. THE NEXT DAY, ON THE TRAIN...

WELL, IT WAS THE SAME DATE... AND THE SAME TRAGIC ACCIDENT OCCURRED!

BUT THIS TIME THE STORY ENDED WITH A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TWIST!



IF I HADN'T READ THAT LETTER DOC INTENDED FOR YOU, GOTTEN SCARED AND SWORN OFF SMOKING, I COULD HAVE BEEN DEAD RIGHT NOW!! ONLY PASSENGERS IN THE FIRST AND LAST CARS WERE KILLED!

THE FIRST AND LAST CARS... THE SMOKING CARS!! FATE SURE DOES PLAY FUNNY TRICKS SOMETIMES!

YEAH! HA! HA! HA!



THE END

I AM THE WEAVER... MY PATTERNS OF LIFE'S THREADS POINT THE WAY TO PEOPLE'S DESTINIES... AND ONE SUCH, WHOSE DESTINY WE SHALL EXAMINE WAS WILLI KROM... OR, IF YOU PREFER, POOR WILLI KROM!

# SMUGGLER Starling THE WEAVER



GERMANY, 1937... STARTING THEIR EXPERIMENTS IN LIGHTER-THAN-AIR DIRIGIBLES BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR WITH THE FAMED ZEPPELINS, GERMAN ENGINEERS CULMINATED THEIR YEARS OF STUDY AND RESEARCH IN THE FINEST DIRIGIBLE AFLOAT... THE MAGNIFICENT HINDENBURG...

BUT TO DIGRESS FOR THE MOMENT, A MINOR EXECUTIVE OF THE AIRDROME NAMED WILLI KROM WAS JUST THEN TRYING TO FLOAT A LITTLE DEAL OF HIS OWN WITH A SLIGHTLY... ER... "HEALTHY" YOUNG LADY NAMED ELSA...



CRUSHED, POOR WILLI RETURNED TO HIS JOB IN THE GIGANTIC DIRIGIBLE HANGARS AT FRIEDRICHSCHEVEN AIRDROME.

YOU'RE THE **BEST CARGO INSPECTOR** WE HAVE, KROM! IT'S YOUR DOING THAT THE LOADS ARE PACKED PROPERLY... AND THAT NOTHING GETS **SMUGGLED ABOARD!** KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

THANK YOU, SIR.

Y'KNOW, KURT, IT WOULD BE EASY AS ANYTHING TO SMUGGLE SOMETHING ABOARD ONE OF THESE WHALES!

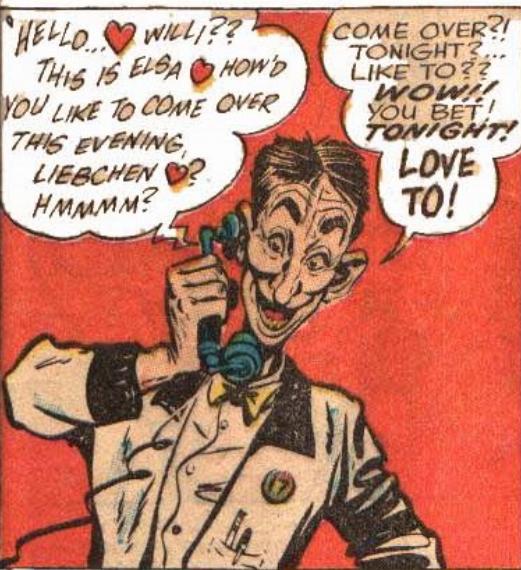
JA! CHILD'S PLAY!

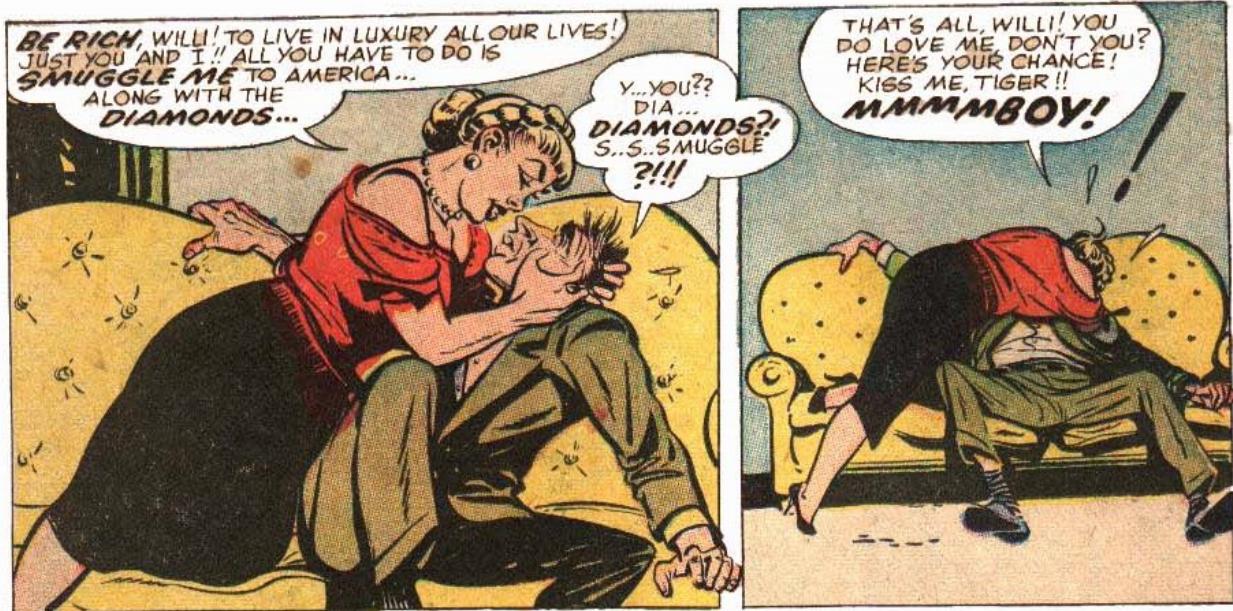
OVER MY DEAD BODY! GET WORKING AND CUT OUT THAT KIND OF TALK!!

ACH! JUST A JOKE, WILLI!

HEY, WILLI! TELEPHONE!

AND THUS THE DICE WERE THROWN... WILLI WENT TO SEE ELSA... WHICH WAS... OR WAS NOT, A MISTAKE, DEPENDING ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW...





POOR WILLI, COMPLETELY BEFUDDED BY ELSAS SUDDEN ARDOR WAS READY TO DO ANYTHING!! ANYTHING AT ALL!!



THAT "DUMBKOPF" WASN'T SO DUMB IN HIS PREPARATIONS TO SMUGGLE HIS GIRL AND THE LOOT TO AMERICA THOUGH, AND CAREFULLY LAYING HIS PLANS CARRIED THEM OUT TO THE "T"

WHAT AN **ACTRESS** YOU ARE, MY LITTLE LIEBCHEN! YOU HAVE THAT POOR FISH TIED AROUND YOUR FINGER! **1ST GUTE!** NOW TOMORROW I WILL GIVE YOU THE JEWELS TO HIDE ABOARD THE HINDENBURG. THEN YOU GO WITH HIM TO AMERICA... I WILL FOLLOW BY SHIP. WE WILL GET RID OF HIM THERE, SELL THE DIAMONDS AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER! **NIEN?**

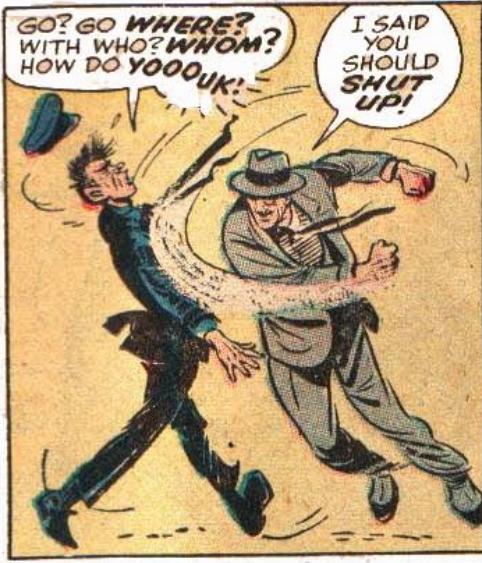
JA!JA, CARL!! IT SOUNDS WONDERFUL! **ACH!** THAT WILLI! WHAT A **DUMBKOPF!!**



HIS JOB CALLED FOR HIS INSPECTING THE LOADED CARGOES AND THIS HE DID WITH TEUTONIC THOROUGHNESS... **ESPECIALLY IN THE TAIL OF THE SHIP...**

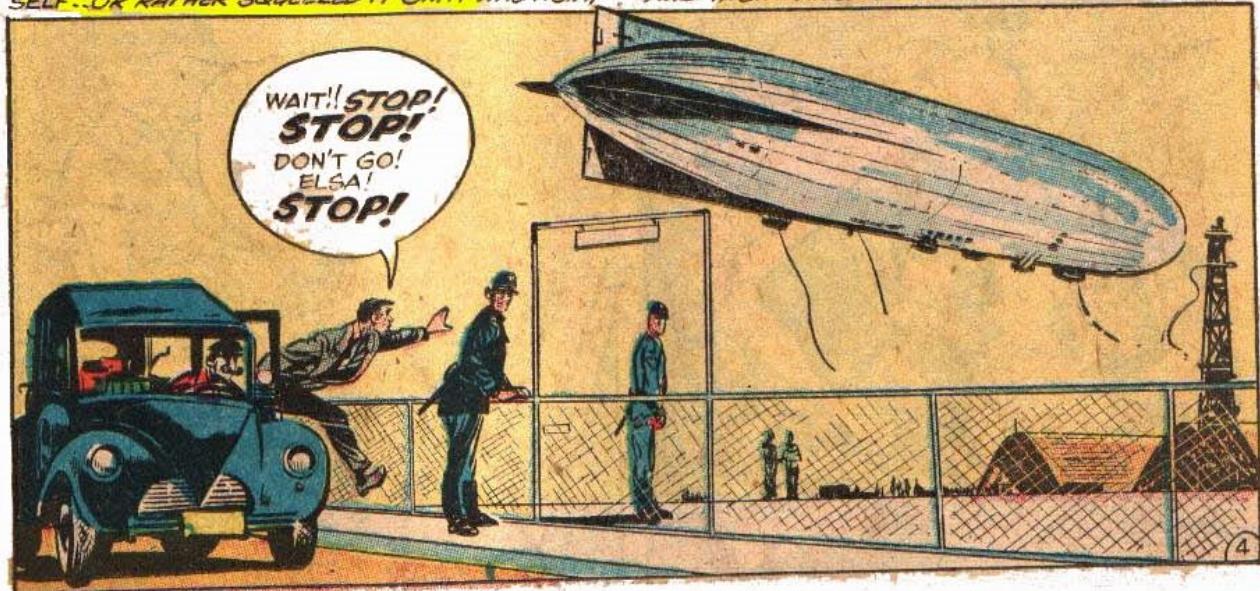
THERE HE CAREFULLY, METHODICALLY FOUND JUST THE SPOT AND REMOVING A SMALL BROWN BOX FROM HIS SMOCK, HE SLIPPED IT INTO AN OBSOURE GIRDER...





THERE WAS NO TIME TO WASTE! CARL REMOVED  
WILLI'S UNIFORM AND THEN SLIPPED IT ON HIM-  
SELF... OR RATHER SQUEEZED IT ON. IT WAS TIGHT,

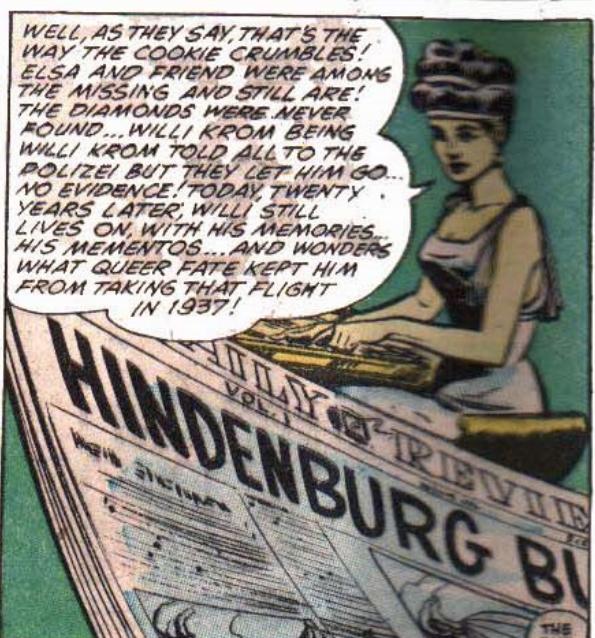
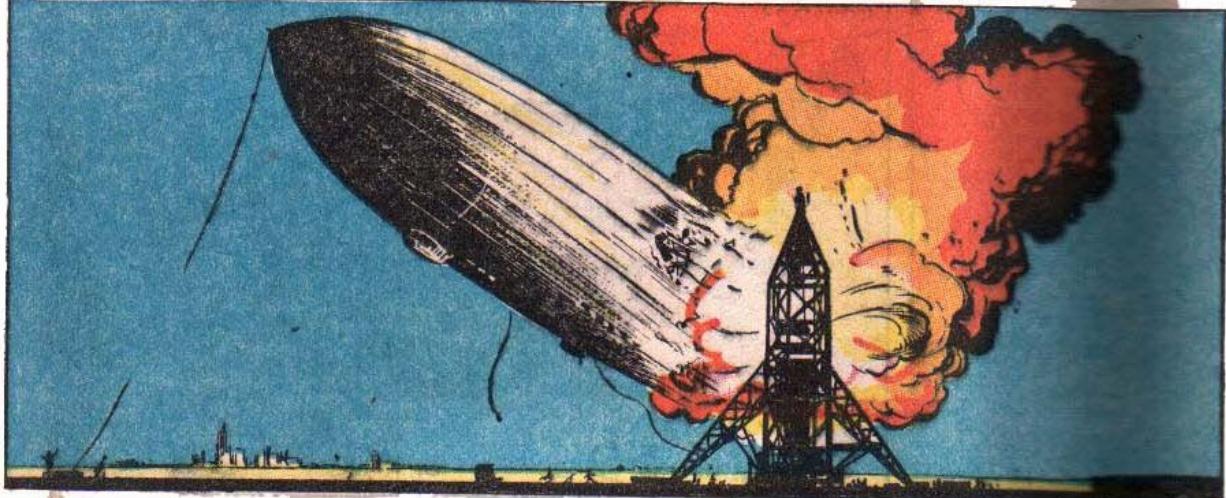
BUT IT WOULD DO... AND IT DID. ABOUT AN HOUR  
LATER, WILLI AWOKE, THREW ON CARL'S CLOTHES  
AND HIGH-TAILED IT TO THE AIRDROME...





HISTORICAL FACT: AFTER A ROUTINE CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC, THE GREAT GERMAN DIRIGIBLE, HINDENBURG ARRIVED AT LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY,

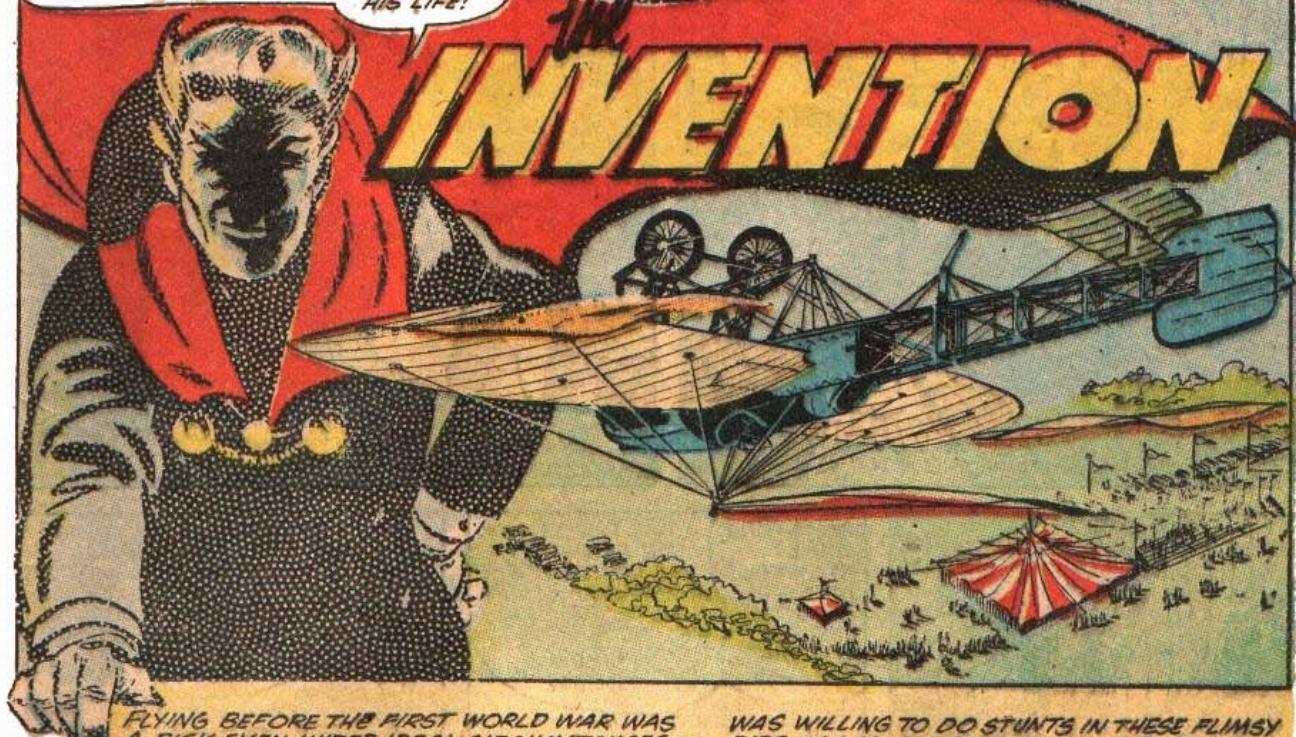
TO COMPLETE HER TWENTY-FIRST TRIP SUDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, FIRE BROKE OUT! INSTANTLY, THE HUGE HYDROGEN BAGS EXPLODED...



LIKE YOU AND YOU, ROLAND GARROS,  
THE FAMOUS STUNT FLYER HAD NO IDEA  
OF WHAT FATE HAD IN STORE FOR HIM...  
AND ROLAND GARROS DIDN'T MUCH CARE...  
BUT WELL HE MIGHT HAVE CARED, FOR  
FATE WAS TO PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN  
HIS LIFE!

## MAN in BLACK

# INVENTION



FLYING BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR WAS  
A RISK EVEN UNDER IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES...  
AND WHEN A CRAZY CHARACTER LIKE GARROS

WAS WILLING TO DO STUNTS IN THESE FLIMSY  
BIRD CAGES, ALL OF PARIS WAS READY TO  
COME OUT AND WATCH... AND USUALLY DID!



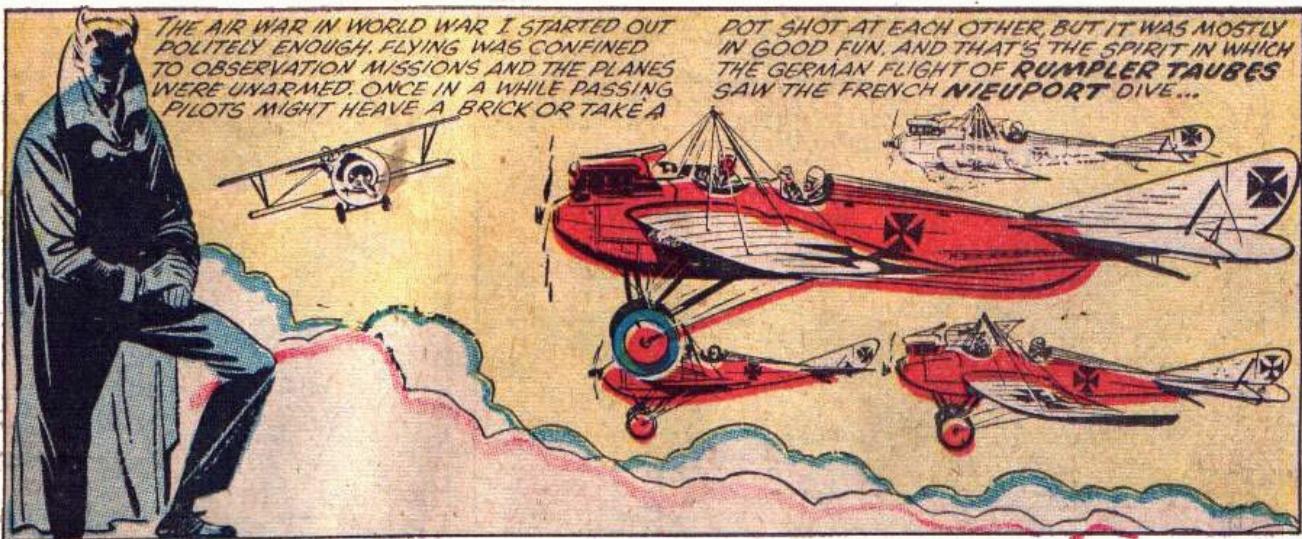
PICKING UP HANDKERCHIEFS WITH A  
WING TIP WAS ALWAYS A CROWD  
PLEASER, SO GARROS ALWAYS  
OBLIGED AND THIS DAY WAS LIKE  
ALWAYS...

BUT SUDDENLY,  
STRANGELY, A ROOT...  
AN ORDINARY  
OLD TREE ROOT  
POPPED OUT OF  
THE GROUND!

PERHAPS THE VIBRATION FROM THE ENGINE...  
OR THE WING GRAZING THE GROUND... OR...  
ANYWAY, FATE DECREED THAT THAT ROOT  
SHOULD POP UP JUST THEN AND...



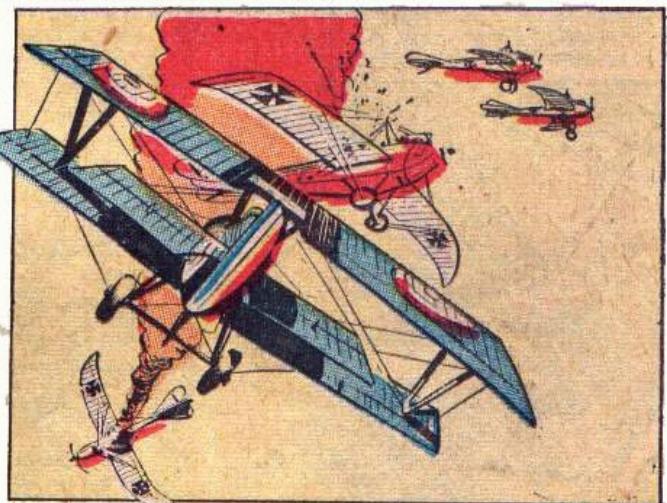




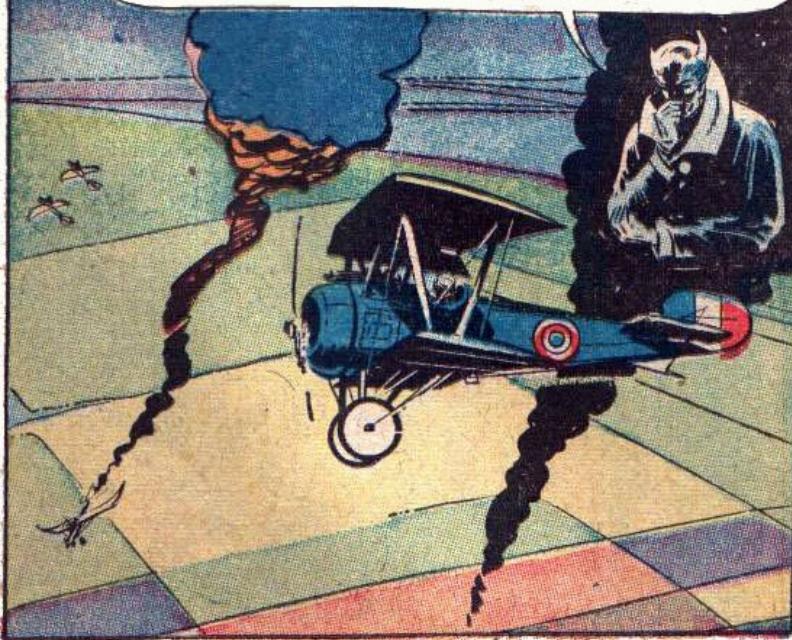
DETERMINED THEY WOULDN'T LET THE LITTLE SILVER-BLUE PLANE BLUFF THEM, THE SMILING GERMANS STEADFASTLY KEPT IN FORMATION... BUT THE FRENCH PILOT WASN'T BLUFFING...



WHERE DID THE SHOTS COME FROM? THE NOSE, OBVIOUSLY! BUT THROUGH THE PROPELLER? IMPOSSIBLE! SURPRISED... AMAZED... THE GERMAN BOYS HESITATED... AND THEN AGAIN THE NIEUPORT'S NOSE LIGHTED UP AGAIN IN BRIGHT LITTLE ORANGE FLASHES!

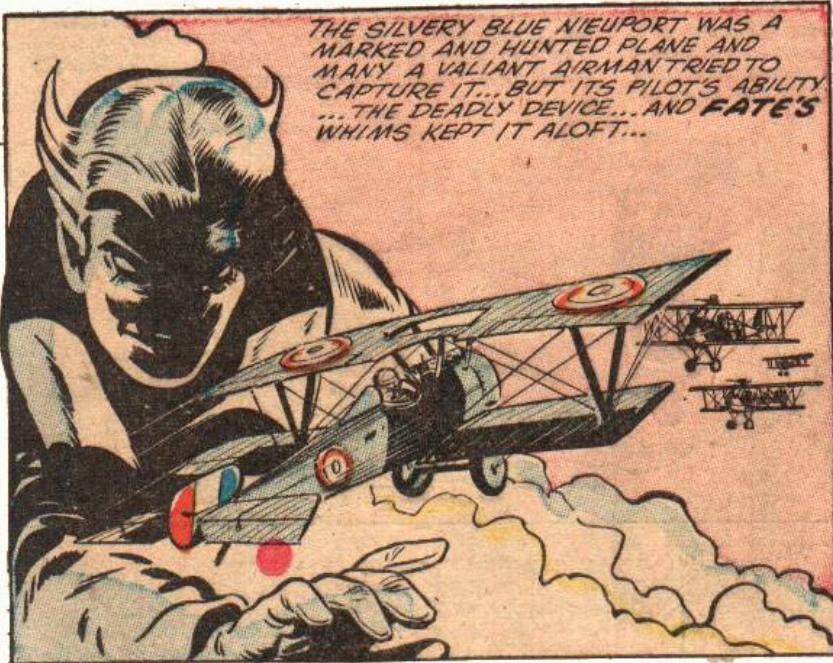


PRUDENTLY THE OTHER GERMANS DOVE FOR HOME... AND AWAY FROM THIS DIABOLICAL CONTRAPTION THAT COULD MAKE AN AIRCRAFT ONE BIG DEADLY WEAPON! THE PATTY CAKE WAR WAS OVER. NOW IT WAS FOR KEEPS!



TWO PLANES LOST! A MACHINE GUN THAT COULD SHOOT PAST A SPINNING PROPELLER! THIS WAS UNHEARD OF!! A REALLY SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT!



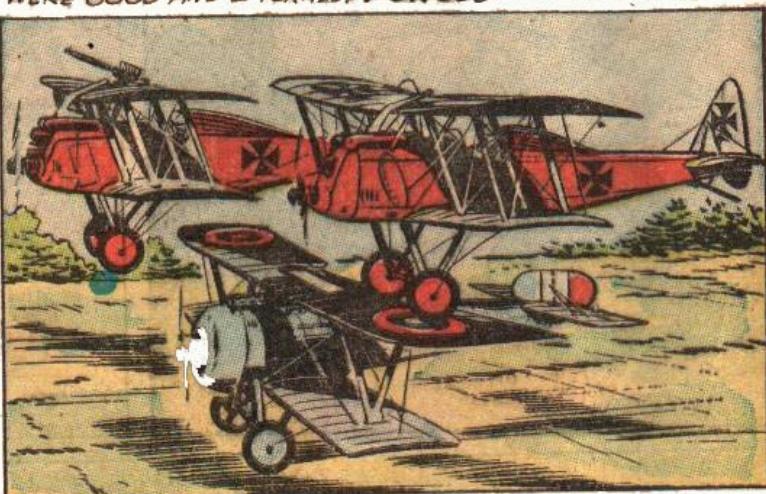


ONE DAY FATE DECIDED "ENOUGH" AND AS THE FRENCHMAN WAS ABOUT TO FIRE A CARTRIDGE IN THE STICK BELT HEAVED UP...



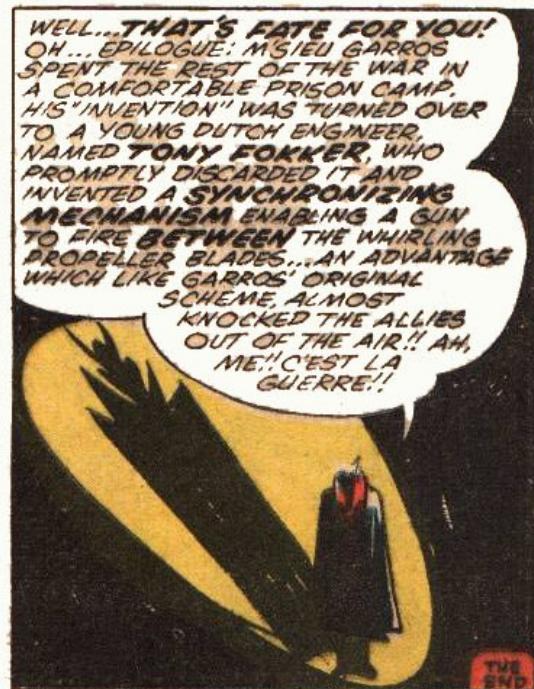
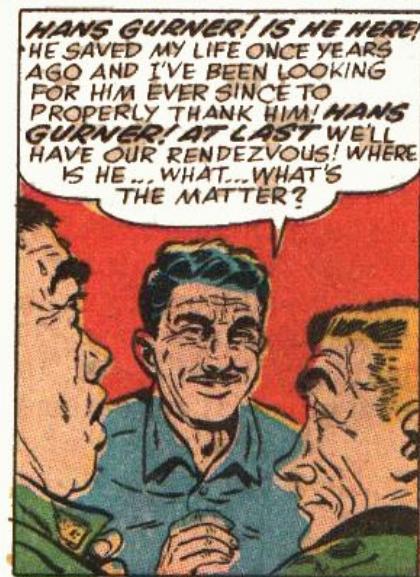
AND PFUI! THE GUN WAS HOPELESSLY JAMMED! HERE WAS THE CHANCE THE GERMANS WERE WAITING FOR...

MAKE NO MISTAKE! THE FRENCHMAN TRIED EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK TO GET AWAY BUT THESE HALBERSTADT PILOTS WERE GOOD AND LITERALLY FORCED HIM TO LAND!

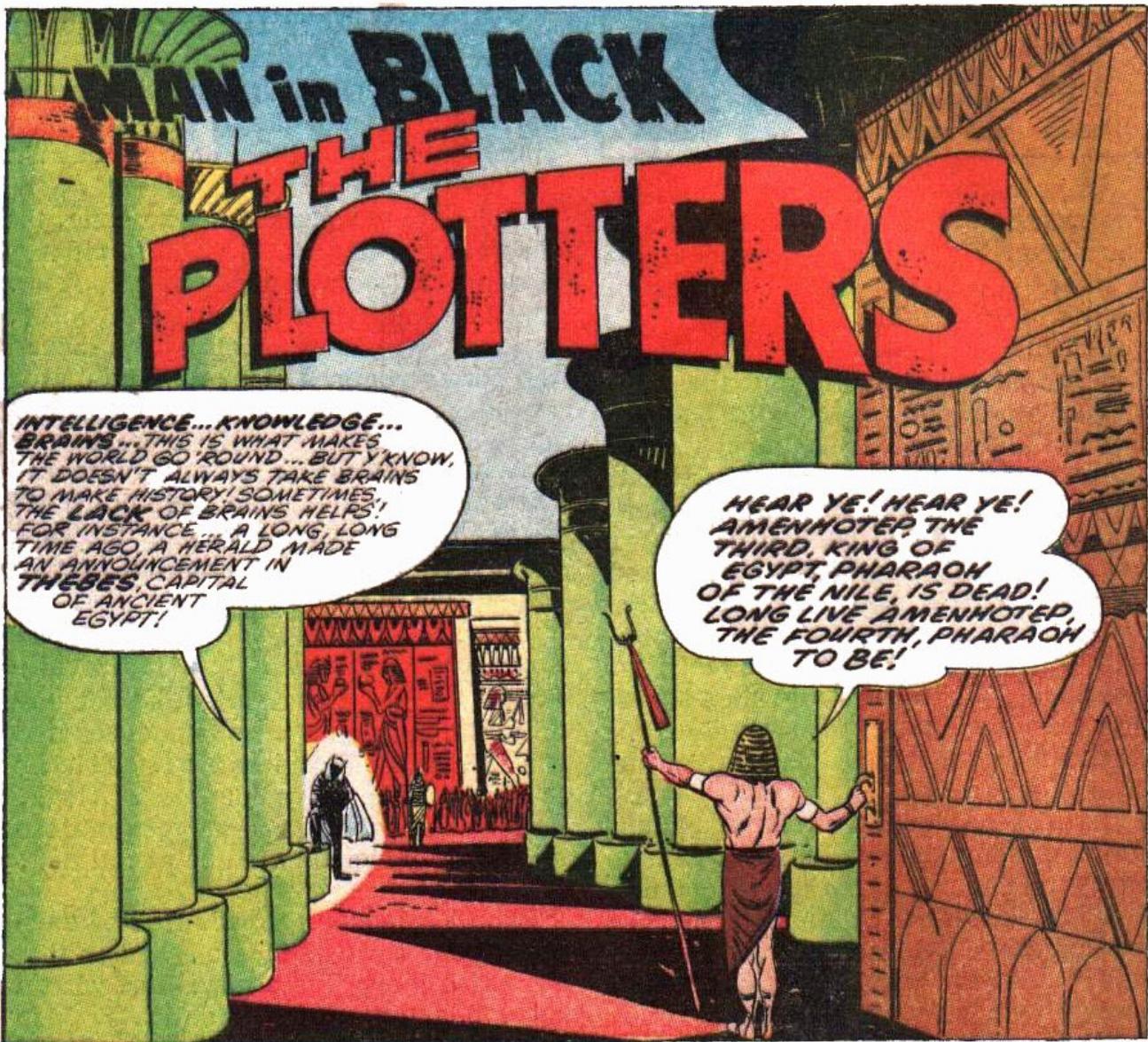


ROLAND GARROS MOVED QUICKLY, BUT HE HARDLY HAD TIME TO GET OUT OF HIS COCKPIT, MUCH LESS TO SET FIRE TO IT, WHEN A PATROL HAD HIM COLD!





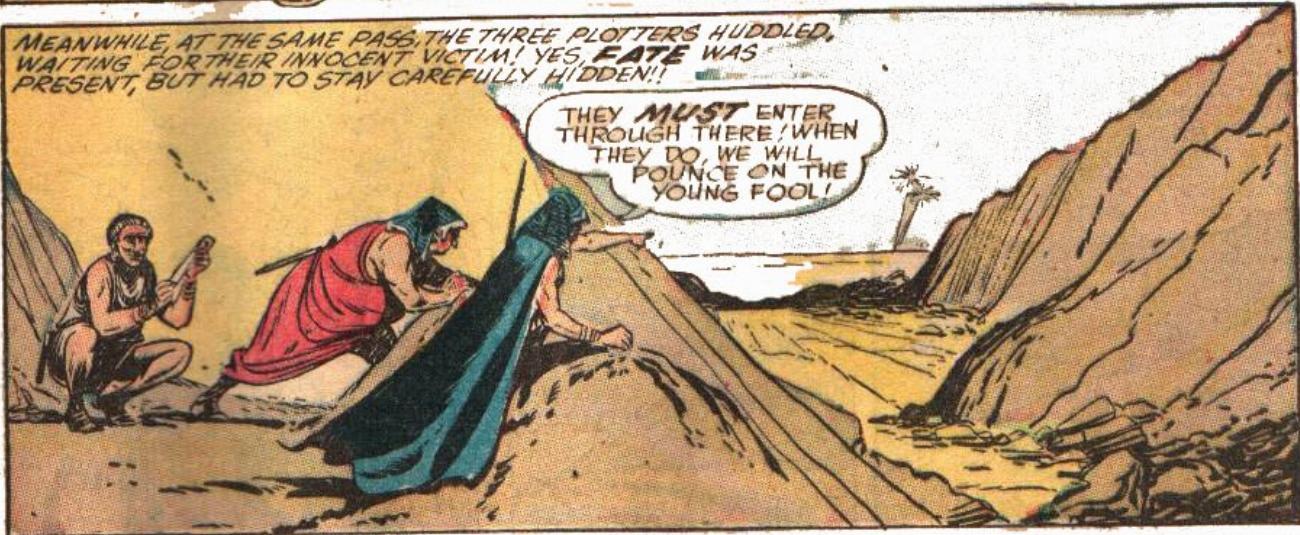
THE END



NICE LITTLE GROUP, EH? NOW IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT AN OLD SHEPHERD GAVE CAREFUL INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS SON, VERY CAREFUL INSTRUCTIONS AS THE POOR LAD WAS A SIMPLETON...



MEANWHILE, AT THE SAME PASS, THE THREE PLOTTERS HUDDLED, WAITING FOR THEIR INNOCENT VICTIM! YES, FATE WAS PRESENT, BUT HAD TO STAY CAREFULLY HIDDEN!!

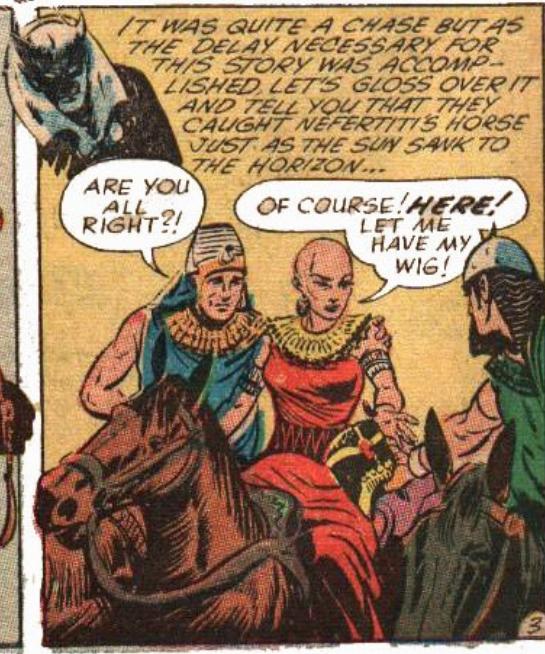


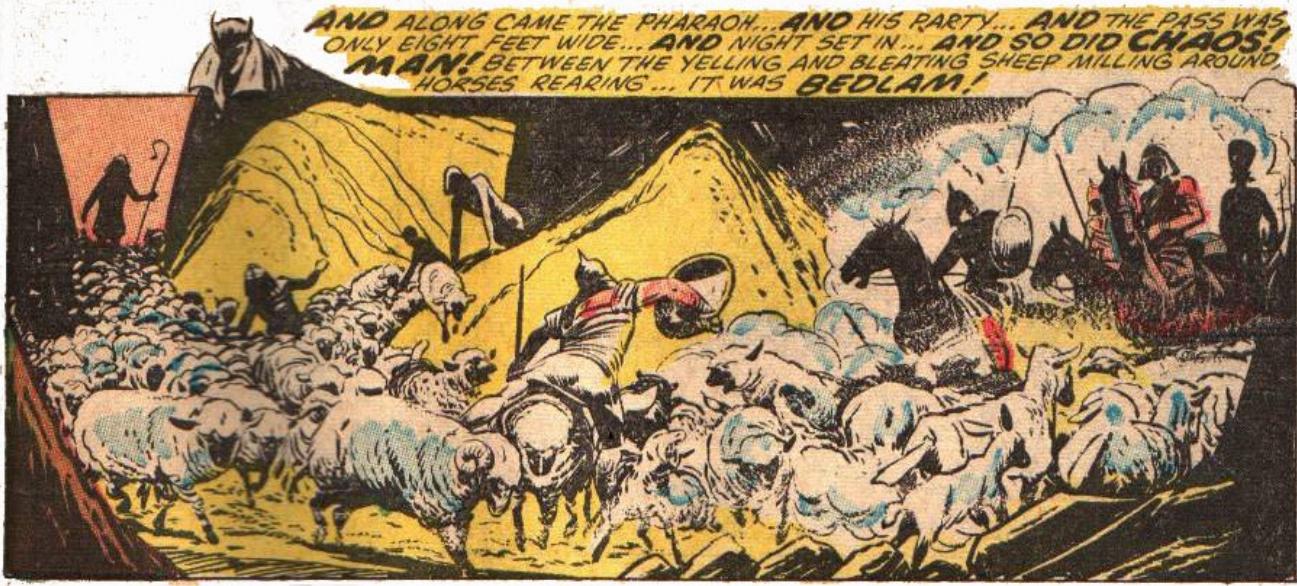
WHY HIDDEN? THAT KID WAS SCRUNCHED RIGHT DOWN ON THE CLOAK OF INVISIBILITY AND IT WAS LEFT BEHIND WHILE THE PASS WAS CASED TO SEE IF ALL WAS READY...

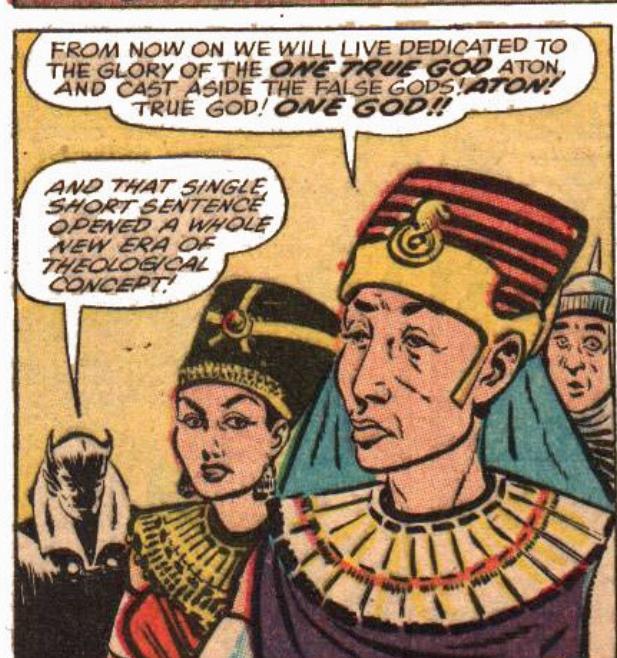
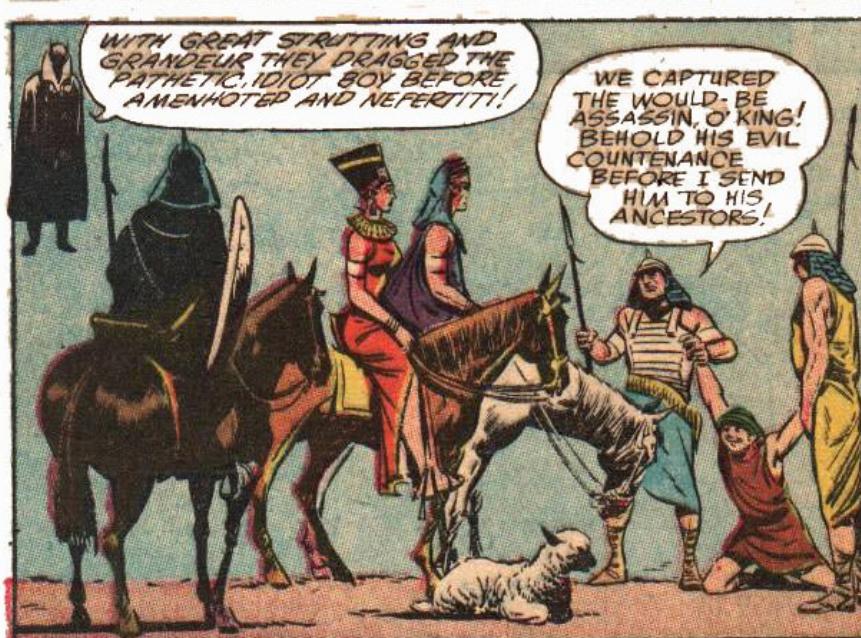
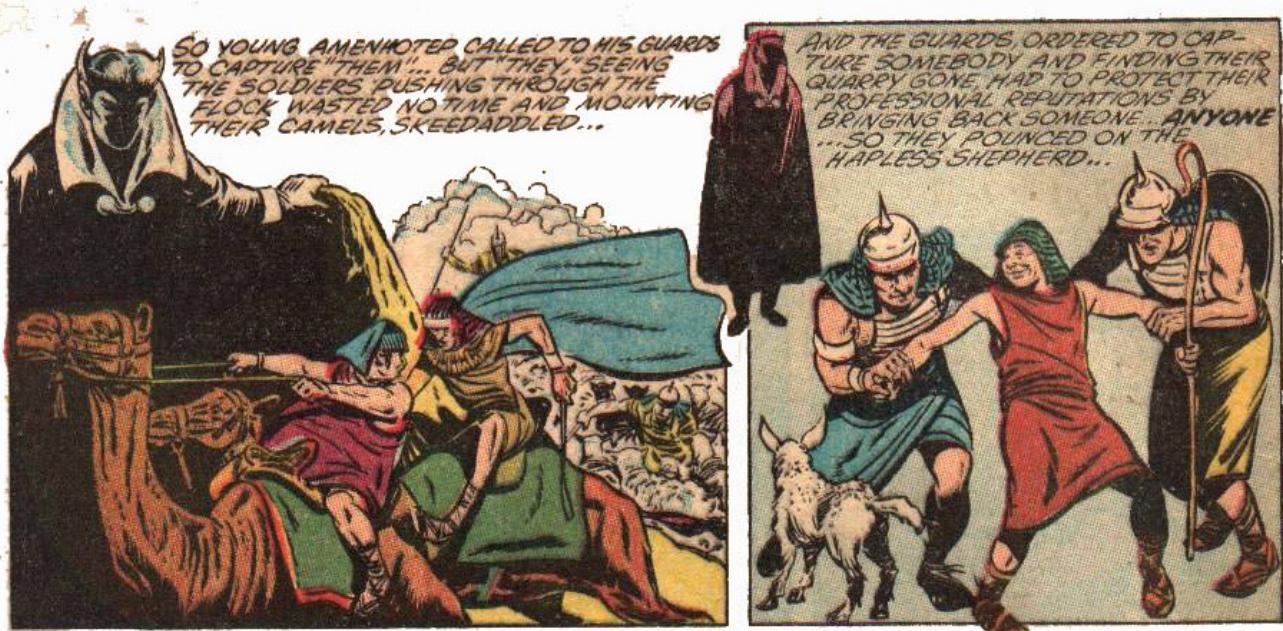


DOGGONE! THIS WASN'T WHAT THE SCRIPT CALLED FOR AT ALL! IF AMENHOTEP ARRIVES BEFORE SUNSET, THE SHEPHERD WON'T GET HIS SHEEP HERE IN TIME... AND HISTORY MIGHT BE KNOCKED FOR A LOOP! FATE, OLD BOY, TAKE A HAND! BUT YOU'LL NEED THE CLOAK, SO SHOO BOY! GET CRACKING!!

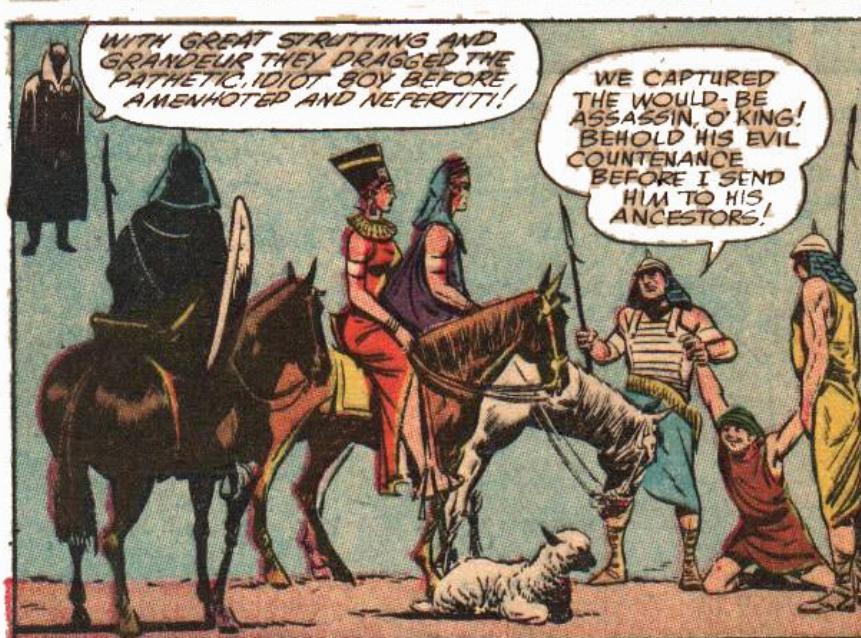
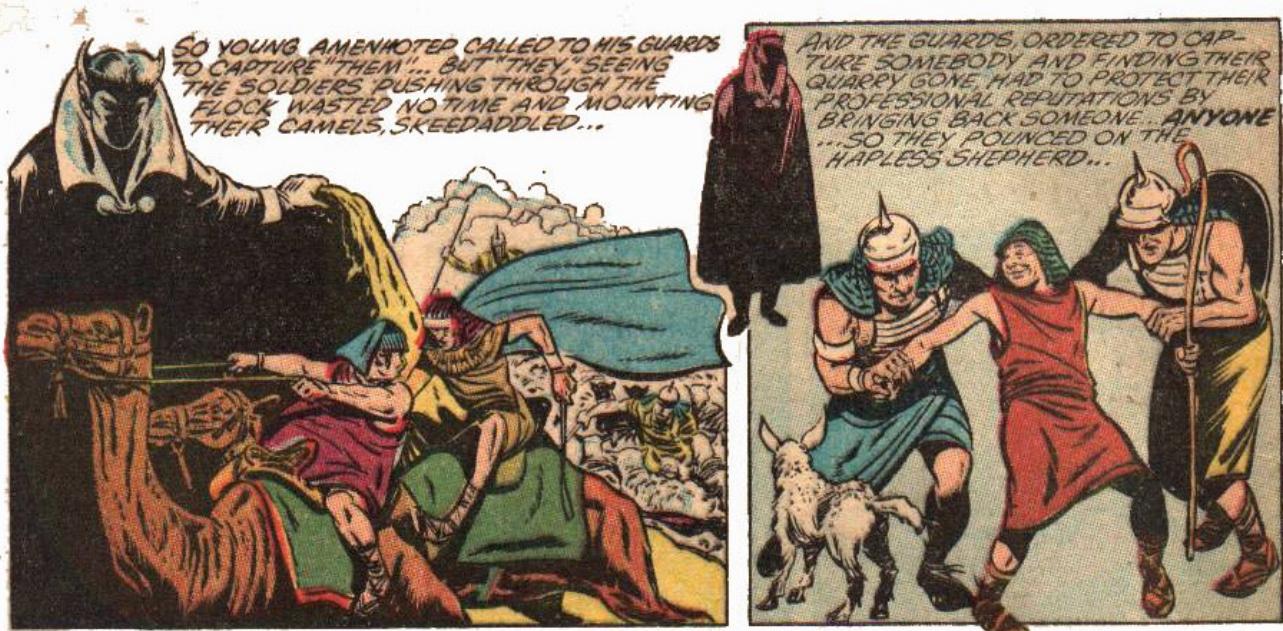




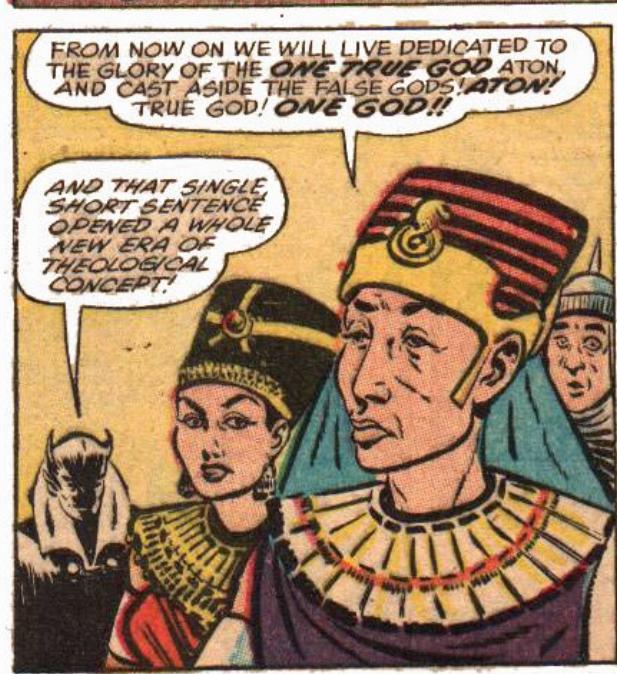




THE END



WE CAPTURED THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN, O KING! BEHOLD HIS EVIL COUNTENANCE BEFORE I SEND HIM TO HIS ANCESTORS!



AND THAT SINGLE SHORT SENTENCE OPENED A WHOLE NEW ERA OF THEOLOGICAL CONCEPT!



THE END



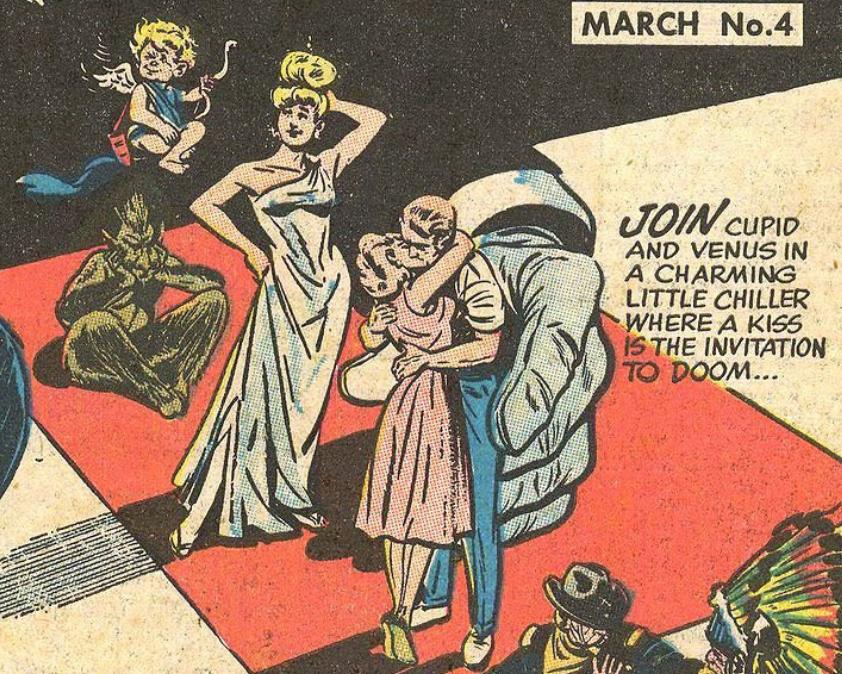
THIS IS YOUR STORY-TELLER, "FATE"... THE

## MAN in BLACK

WE MAY HAVE MET MANY TIMES... CAN YOU REMEMBER WHEN FATE INFLUENCED YOUR LIFE? HMM? OF COURSE YOU DO, FOR FATE IS EVERYWHERE AT ALL TIMES! THE MASTER CHESS PLAYER GUIDING YOUR DESTINY LIKE A PAWN ON THE CHECKERBOARD OF LIFE WILL PROVE THE POINT...

MARCH No.4

READ FOR YOURSELF THE TRUE ACCOUNT OF A FABULOUS TAME EAGLE DURING THE CIVIL WAR...



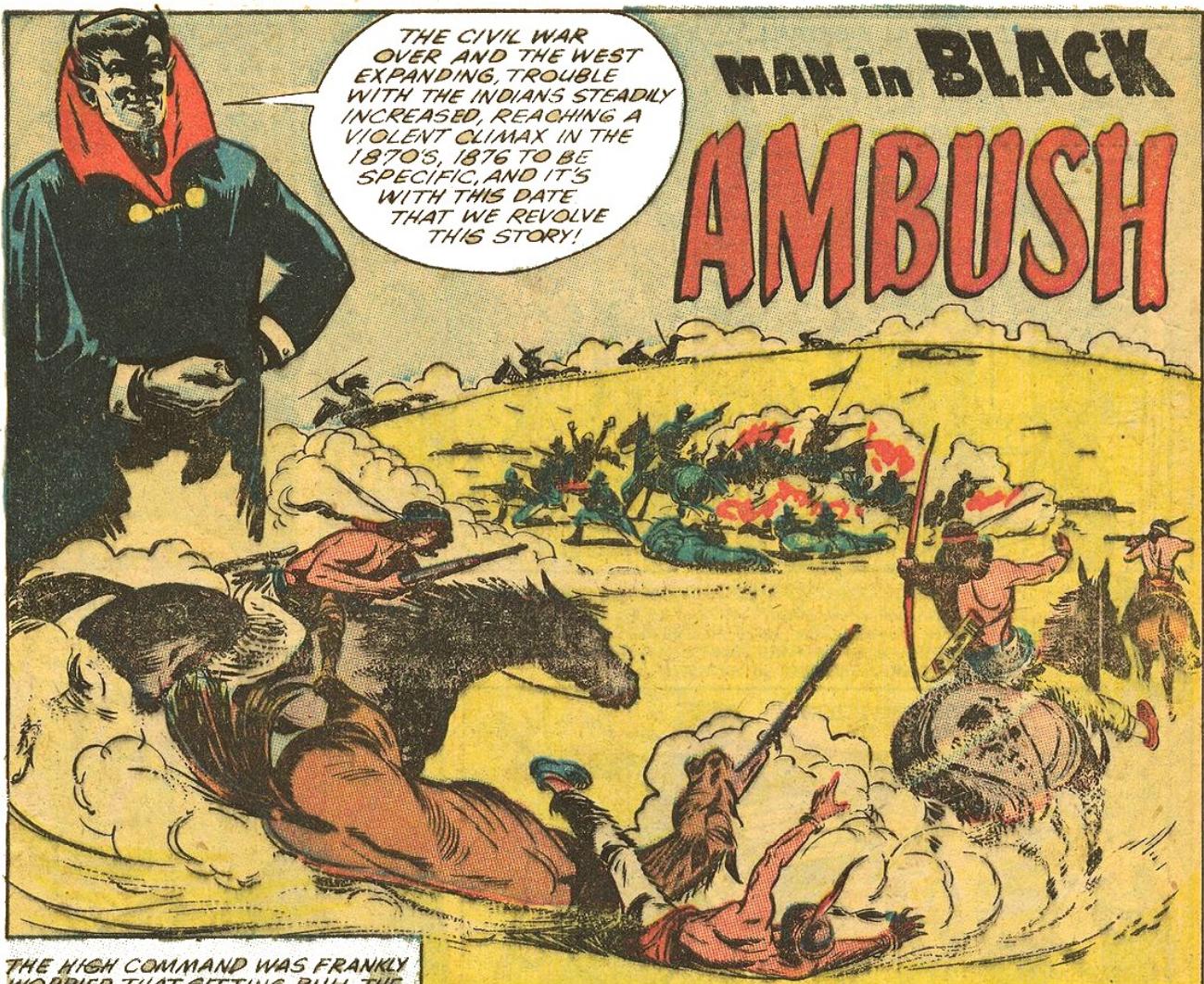
JOIN CUPID AND VENUS IN A CHARMING LITTLE CHILLER WHERE A KISS IS THE INVITATION TO DOOM...



SQUIRM WHILE THE UNHAPPY JANITOR RISKS HIS LIFE TO STEAL A VALUABLE TREASURE...

THRILL TO AN ASTOUNDING CHAIN OF DRAMATIC EVENTS IN THIS TALE OF THE WEST WHEN OUR COUNTRY WAS YOUNG...

INTERESTED? WELL, THEN, COME ALONG WITH THE MAN IN BLACK!



# MAN in BLACK

# AMBUSH

THE HIGH COMMAND WAS FRANKLY WORRIED THAT SITTING BULL, THE GREAT CHIEF WAS PLANNING A MAJOR CAMPAIGN...



THEY NEEDED A COURIER, SO FATE FURNISHED THEM ONE!!



SEE? IF FATE HADN'T MADE THAT HORSE REAR, THEY'D NEVER HAVE SEEN INJUN SAM OUT IN THE YARD AND WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT OF IT!





MMM...MAYBE...BUT FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE, BUB! BUT ANYWAY, JUST THEN AT SITTING BULL'S VILLAGE A TRIO OF VERY SHADY CHARACTERS WERE CONCLUDING A FAST DEAL WITH THE CHIEF HIMSELF...



C'MON! QUIT GABBIN' AFORE THEY FIND OUT ABOUT THEM GUNS! SAY GOODBYE AND LET'S GO!

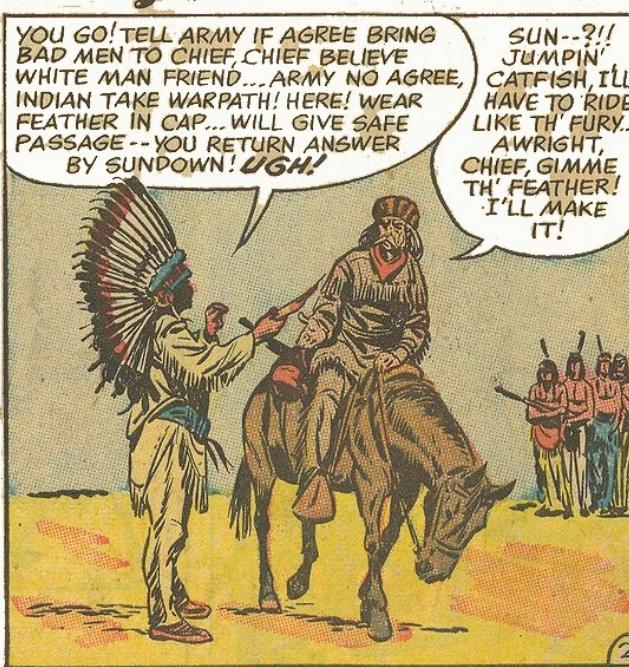
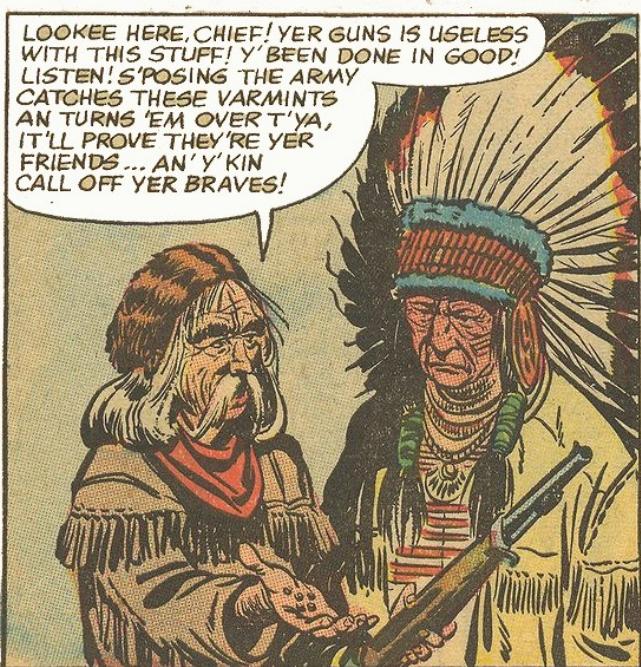
SHUT UP, YOU FOOL! YOU NEVER HURRY AN INJUN! WAKAN TANKAH, CHIEF! GITCHI GOOMAH! UH!



OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT—ANYWAY, SEVERAL HOURS LATER, INJUN DAN BLEW INTO THE VILLAGE. SHOWN THE NEW GUNS, DAN WAS PROPERLY APPRECIATIVE WHEN SOMEHOW A FIRE TRIPOD MYSTERIOUSLY COLLAPSED, TRIPPING A SQUAW...



GREAT CHIEF, IF THET'S THE BULLETS FOR THESE GUNS, YOU'VE BEEN HORN-SWOGGLED! THET'S PERCUSSION CAP STUFF!



BUT INJUN DAN WAS NOT TO ACCOMPLISH HIS MISSION FOR FATE, TAKING A HAND, CAUSED AN AVALANCHE TO BLOCK THE ONLY PASS...

WHAT TH'..?!  
LANDSLIDE!!  
Tarnation!!

CONSARN, BLASTED LUCK! I'LL HAVE TO HIE MYSELF ALL AWAY AROUN' TH' MOUNTAIN! FATE SHORE APLAYED ME A DIRTY TRICK THET TIME!!

DIRTY TRICK? NO, INJUN DAN JUST YOUR DESTINY... FOR HOW ELSE WOULD YOU HAVE COME ACROSS THE THREE RENEGADES?

AND THE THREE OUTLAWS JUMPY THAT THE INDIANS THEY HAD BILKED WERE FOLLOWING THEM TO GET REVENGE, WERE READY TO CUT DOWN ANY PURSUER.

IT'S A INDIAN!  
GET 'IM!

THAT DAY INJUN DAN MET HIS FATE.

HUH! 'TWARN'T NO INDIAN AFTER ALL! TOO BAD!

YEH... I WONDER WHO HE WAS? HUH!  
NOBODY IMPORTANT THET'S SURE!

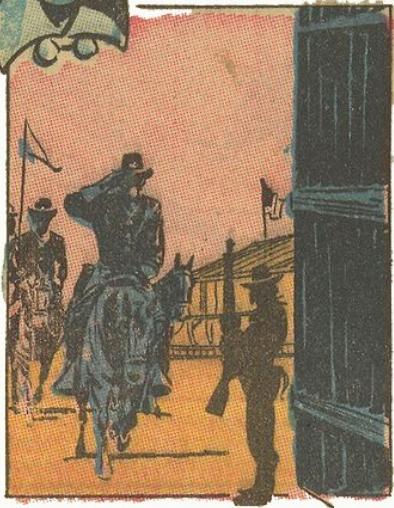
NO... NOBODY IMPORTANT...  
JUST AN OLD SOURDOUGH CARRYING A MESSAGE THAT COULD HAVE PREVENTED...  
BUT THAT'S LATER. NOW, THE KEY ITEM WAS THAT THE MESSAGE WASN'T DELIVERED AND THAT THE APPOINTED HOUR HAD COME AND GONE...

MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE GENERAL! HAVE HIM MOVE OUT HIS TROOPS AND FIND THAT INDIAN VILLAGE!

YES, SIR!



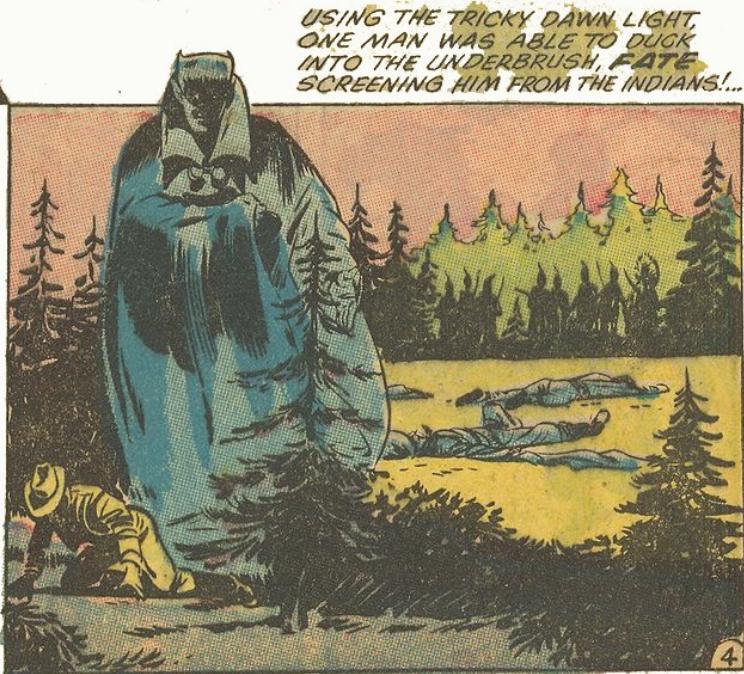
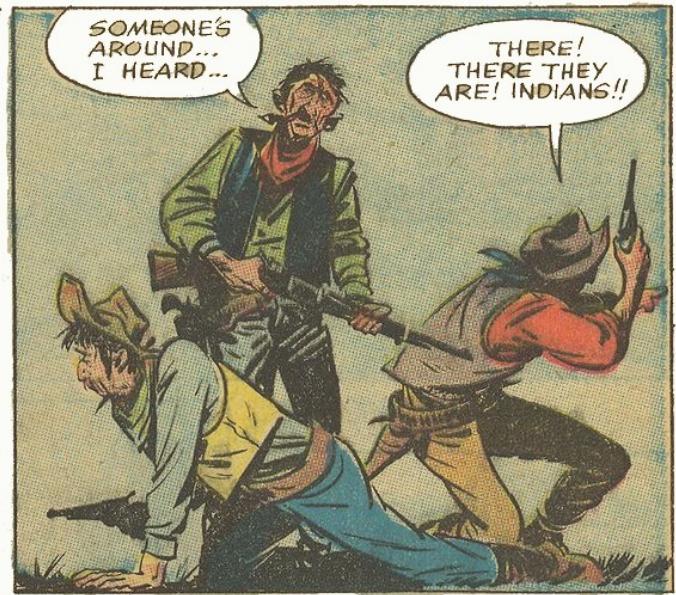
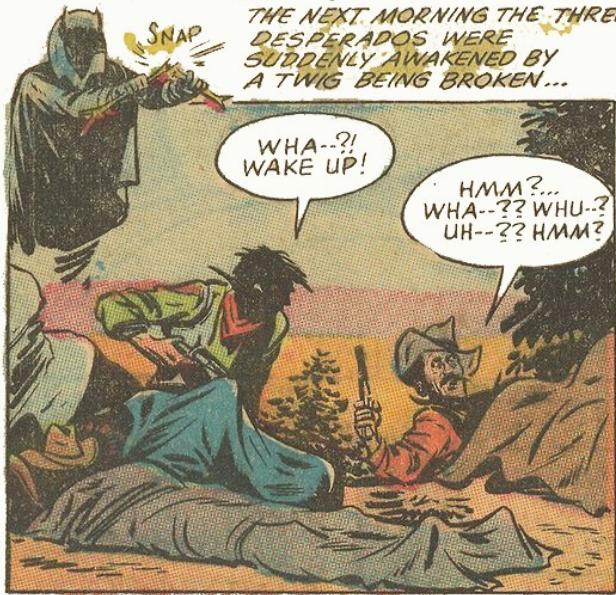
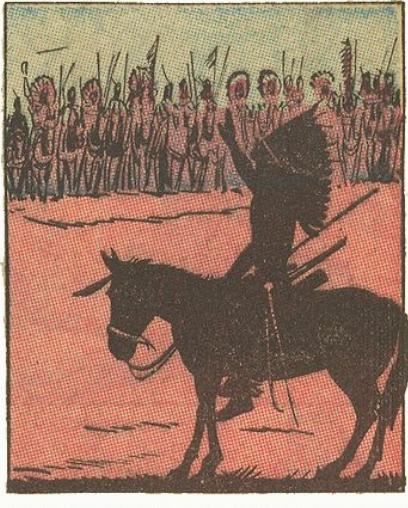
THE BUGLE SOUNDED...  
THE MEN SADDLED  
UP...THE CORDERS  
CRACKED OUT AND  
THE TROOPS LEFT  
THE FORT...

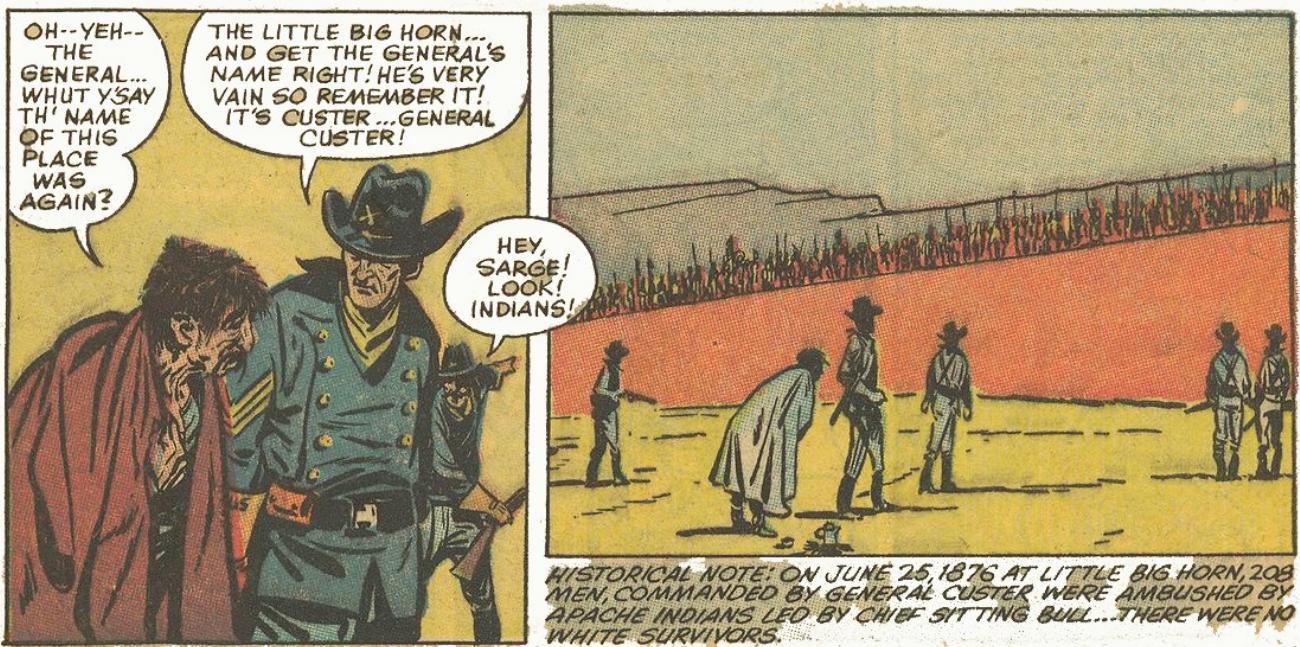
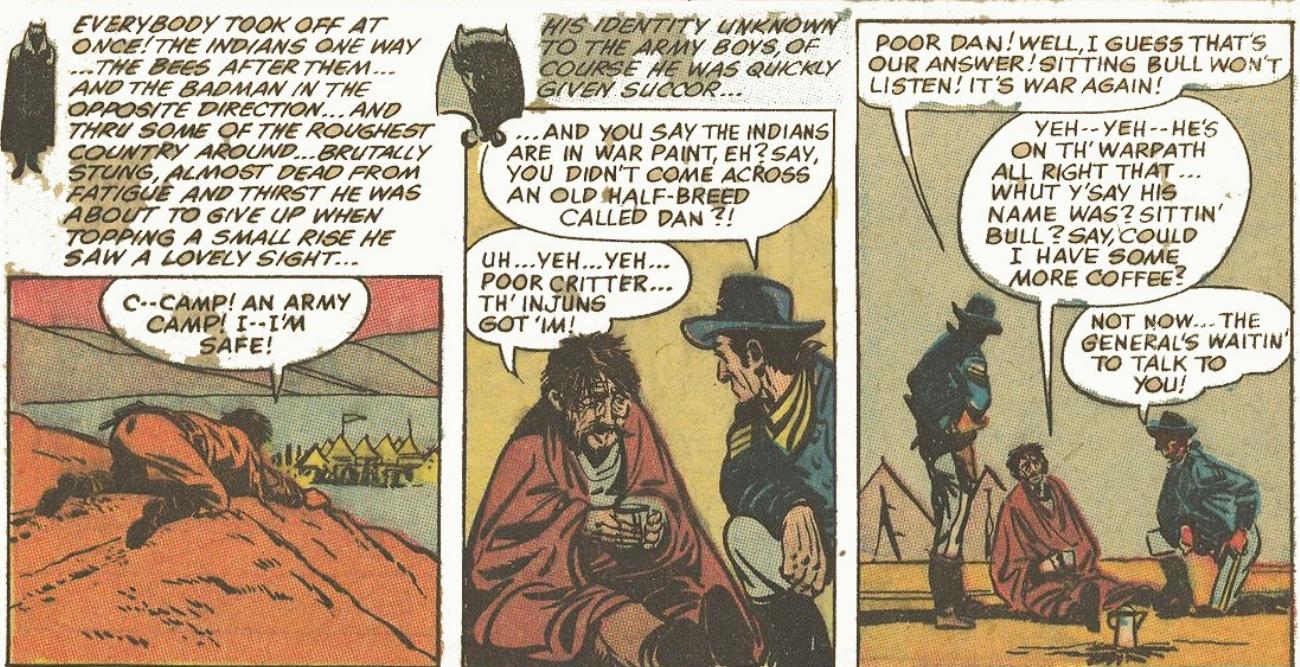


OLD SITTING BULL, MEAN-  
WHILE PRESSED ON BY THE  
MORE AVID OF HIS CHIEFS  
AND UNABLE TO EXTEND THE  
DEADLINE ANY LONGER,  
UTTERED A SOLEMN  
COMMAND...



SIX THOUSAND STRONG, THE  
INDIANS MOUNTED THEIR PONIES  
AND WITH THE RED RAYS OF SUN-  
RISE GLEAMING DULLY ON THE  
SMEARED WAR PAINT, TURNED  
WEST TOWARDS THE RIVER...







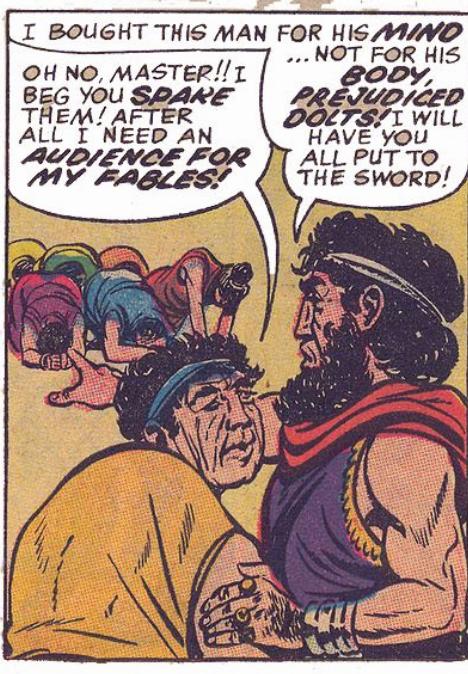
# THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED

PART  
2

NOW THIS HERE  
IS A NAIL... A HORSE  
SHOE NAIL... AND  
BECAUSE OF THIS NAIL  
THIS IS WHAT REALLY  
HAPPENED! ALL  
THINGS BEING THE  
SAME AS BEFORE  
LET'S TAKE UP  
THE STORY  
AGAIN...

BUT  
WE'VE NO  
RIGHT! WE  
MUST WAIT  
UNTIL THE  
MASTER  
RETURNS!

SILENCE!  
THE MASTER  
WILL PRAISE AND  
THANK US FOR  
THIS! CHOOSE,  
EVIL ONE!  
CHOOSE!!



THE  
END

# THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED

PART  
1

**BROOM STRAWS** - ONE SHORT, ONE LONG, JUST LIKE YOU USE THEM TO SETTLE SOMETHING SO DID THE ANCIENTS... ONLY MORE SO! AND JUST LIKE WE HAVE TODAY, THEY ALSO HAD THEIR SUPERSTITIONS, DISCRIMINATIONS AND PREJUDICES... ONLY MORE SO!

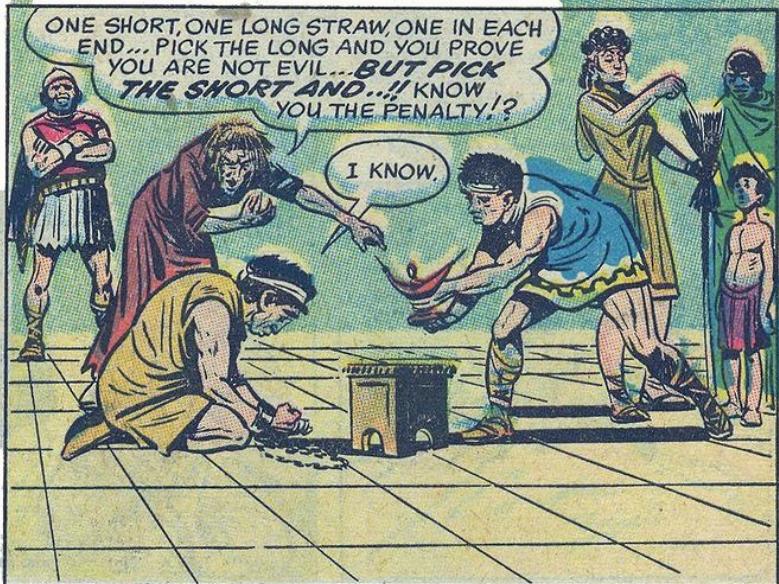


**NO, SLAVES!** SEE WHAT THE MASTER HAS SENT FROM GREECE TO LEND ANOTHER HAND FOR THY LABORS!

THE DEVIL'S OWN!

...WITH AN EVIL EYE!

A HUNCHBACK!



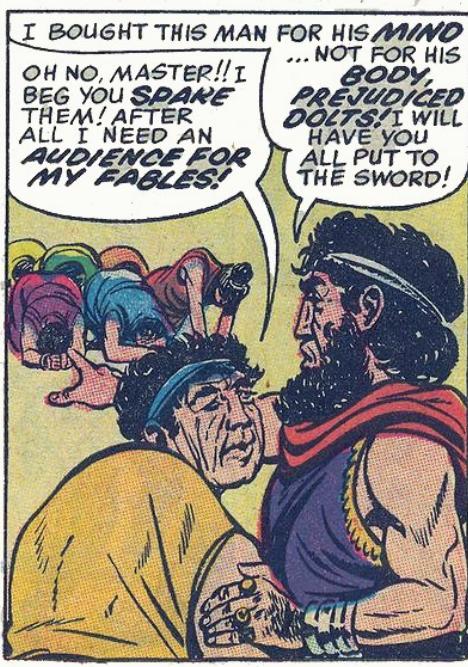
# THIS IS HOW IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED

## PART 2

NOW THIS HERE IS A NAIL... A HORSE SHOE NAIL... AND BECAUSE OF THIS NAIL THIS IS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED! ALL THINGS BEING THE SAME AS BEFORE LET'S TAKE UP THE STORY AGAIN...

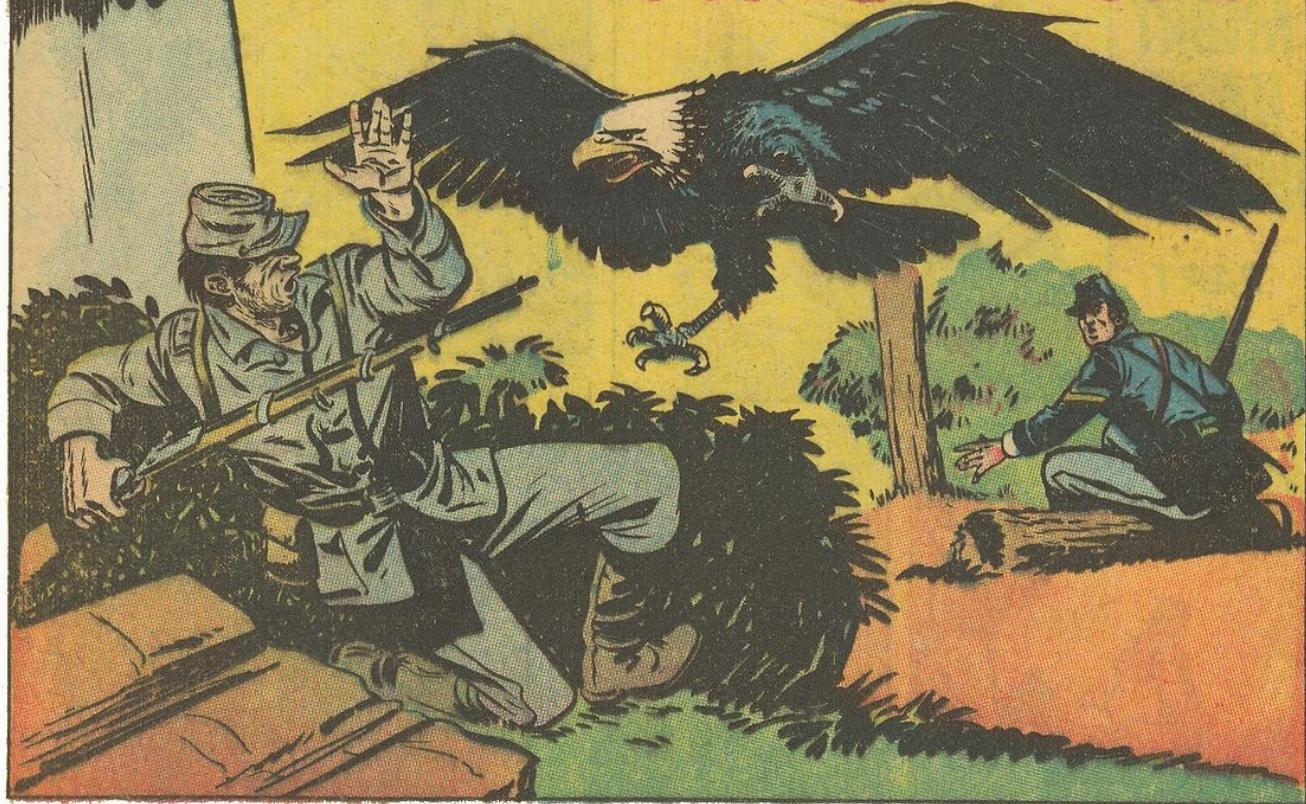
BUT WE'VE NO RIGHT! WE MUST WAIT UNTIL THE MASTER RETURNS!

SILENCE! THE MASTER WILL PRAISE AND THANK US FOR THIS! CHOOSE, EVIL ONE! CHOOSE!!



WHETHER YOU BELIEVE  
IN FATE OR NOT, IT  
PLAYS AN IMPORTANT  
PART IN OUR LIVES AND  
THIS TRUE STORY OF  
THE CIVIL WAR IS A  
GOOD EXAMPLE!

# MAN in BLACK JIM'S EAGLE

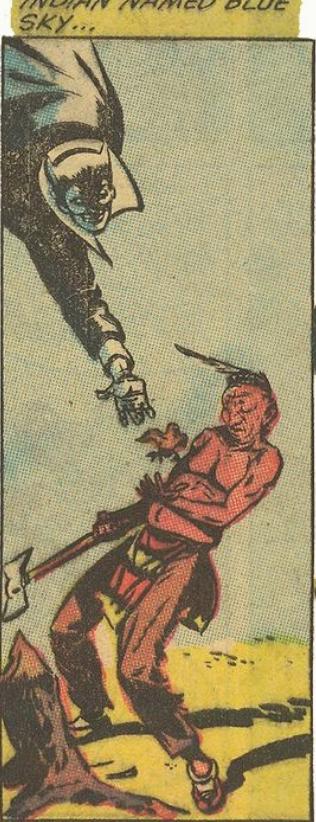


AN ORPHANED, STARVING  
EAGLET, AN INDIAN'S NEW  
AXE AND A TREE START  
OUR YARN. AND  
FATE BRINGS  
THEM TOGETHER.

AXE MEETS TREE...TREE  
FALLS DOWN...AND  
LITTLE EAGLET FALLS  
OUT...

...AND INTO THE ARMS  
OF A STARTLED  
INDIAN NAMED BLUE  
SKY...

FATE HAD BROUGHT  
BLUE SKY THIS HELP-  
LESS BIT OF LIFE, SO  
TRUE TO INDIAN  
TRADITION, BLUE SKY  
WOULD CARE FOR AND  
NURTURE IT...



...AND BLUE SKY DID CARE FOR IT... BUT FATE HAD OTHER PLANS FOR THE BIRD AND ONE DAY PUT THE WHEELS IN MOTION TO CARRY THEM OUT...

OR RATHER PUT THE WHEELS OUT OF MOTION BY CAUSING A LOOSE STICK TO ENTANGLE ITSELF IN THE REAR WHEEL OF A FARMER'S WAGON...

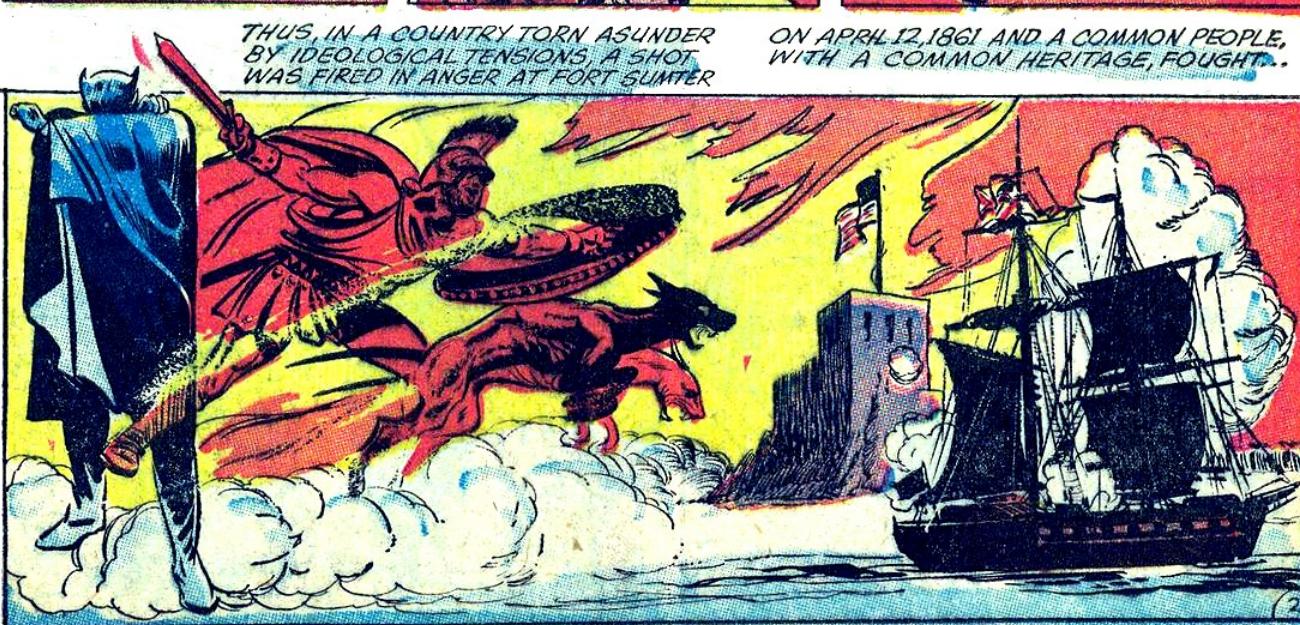
ALREADY WEAK, THE SPOKES SNAPPED, AND THE WHEEL COLLAPSED...

BLAST IT! I'VE GOT TO GET MY CORN TO MARKET TODAY... MAYBE BLUE SKY HAS AN EXTRY WHEEL!

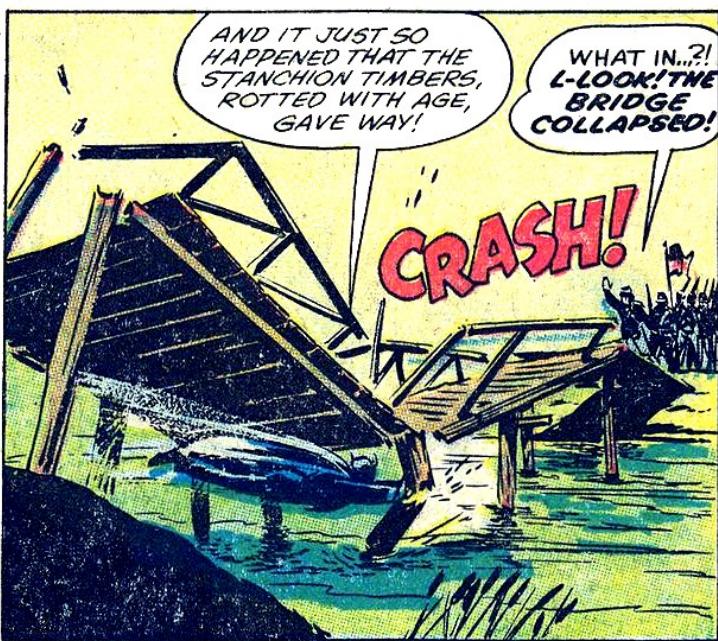


THUS, IN A COUNTRY TORN ASUNDER BY IDEOLOGICAL TENSIONS, A SHOT WAS FIRED IN ANGER AT FORT SUMTER

ON APRIL 12, 1861 AND A COMMON PEOPLE, WITH A COMMON HERITAGE, FOUGHT...



THEN, SOMETIME LATER, FATE DECREED THAT THE EAGLE WAS TO PASS INTO THE POSSESSION OF A SOLDIER...ONE OF THOSE COMING UP THE ROAD...BUT HOW TO GET THE SOLDIER PAST THE FARMER'S HOUSE? THIS WAY HE'LL MISS IT COMPLETELY...HE MUST BE DIVERTED!



WHEW! FATE GAVE US A BREAK THIS TIME! IF WE'D BEEN ON THE BRIDGE WHEN IT BROKE WE'D BE GONE! BUT NOW WHERE DO WE GO?!

WE CAN FORD THE RIVER DOWN THE ROAD A PIECE... I KNOW! I USED TO LIVE AROUND HERE!



HEY THERE, NEIGHBOR! FIXIN' TO SHOOT YOURSELF A CHICKEN DINNER?!

WHY, IT'S JIMMY McGINNIS! HOWDY, BOY!



THIS HERE'S NO CHICKEN, SON! THIS IS AN EAGLE! BUT IT'S BEEN FEELIN' RIGHT POORLY AN' MUCH AS I HATE TO, I FEEL TH' HUMAN THING TO DO IS PUT IT OUT OUT OF ITS MISERY... I TRIED EVERYTHIN' ELSE!



I HAS ME A WAY WITH ANIMALS AN' I BET I COULD SAVE THIS POOR CRITTER... I'D HAVE TO BE TAKIN' HIM WITH ME, THOUGH... WOULD YOU BE AFTER SELLIN' HIM, NEIGHBOR?

WELL... I GAVE OL' INJUN BLUE SKY FIVE BUSHEL OF CORN FOR IT... GIVE ME TWO-FIFTY FOR THEM AN' IT'S YOURS!



SO FATE ARRANGED FOR JIMMY McGINNIS AND THE EAGLE TO FIND EACH OTHER. UNDER JIM'S EXPERT DOCTORING, THE EAGLE, DUBBED 'OLD SAM' THRIVED. SOON, IT WAS FOLLOWING McGINNIS AROUND CAMP LIKE A FAITHFUL DOG!

STOP SCREECHING AT ME! I'LL HAVE YOUR NEW PERCH DONE IN A LITTLE WHILE!



FATE GAVE THAT BIRD A  
CHARMED LIFE AND AS AN  
EXAMPLE, IN THE FIRST BATTLE  
AN OIL CASK JUST HAPPENED  
TO SPLIT...



JIMMY! LOOK! IF YOU  
HADN'T SLIPPED AND  
THRUST THE SHIELD UP  
AS YOU FELL, THIS  
BULLET WOULD HAVE  
HIT OLD SAM!!



THAT WAS ONE TIME...  
ANOTHER TIME FATE  
WAS KIND, WAS IN A  
BIG BATTLE IN OCTOBER...

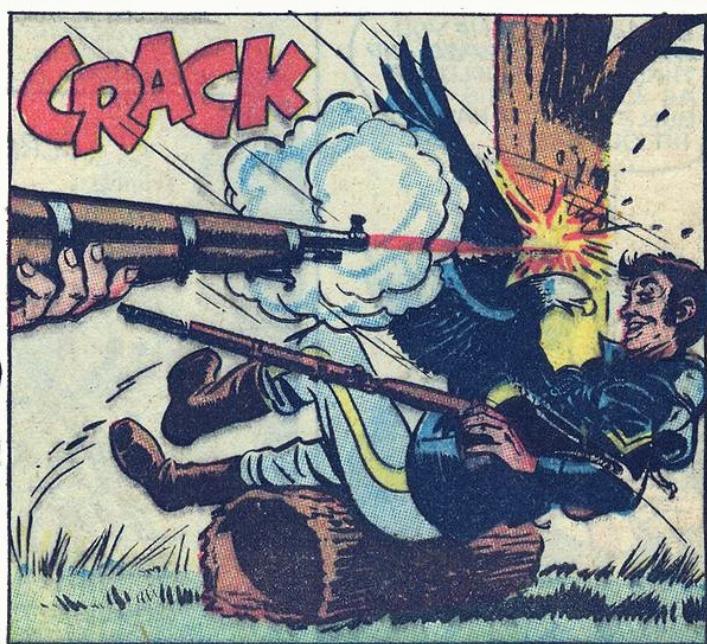
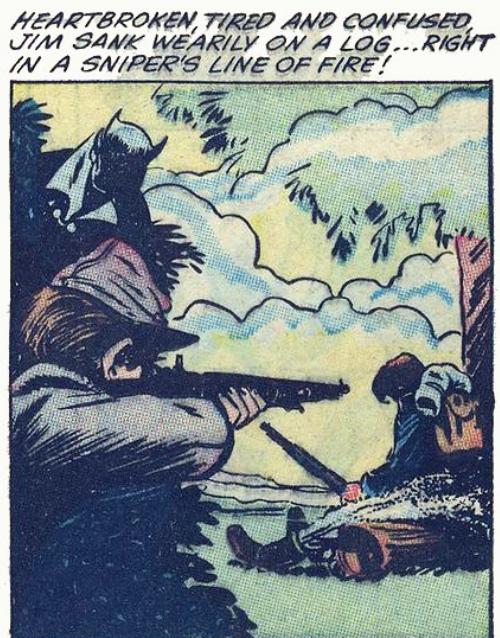
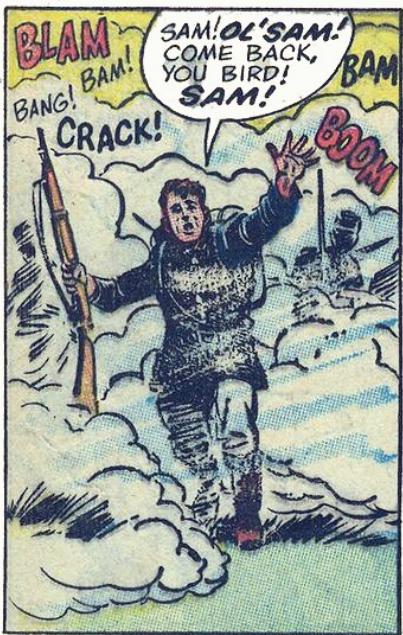


BRHOOOMM



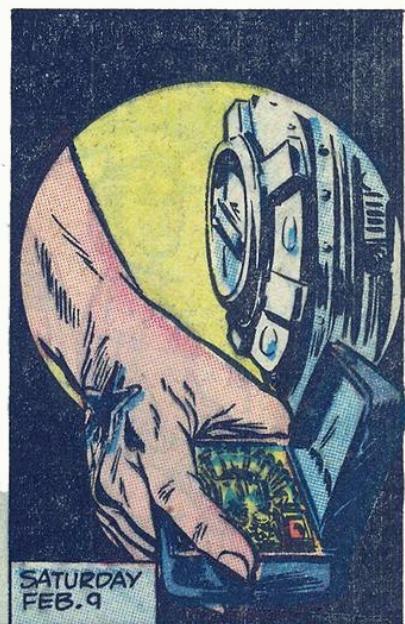
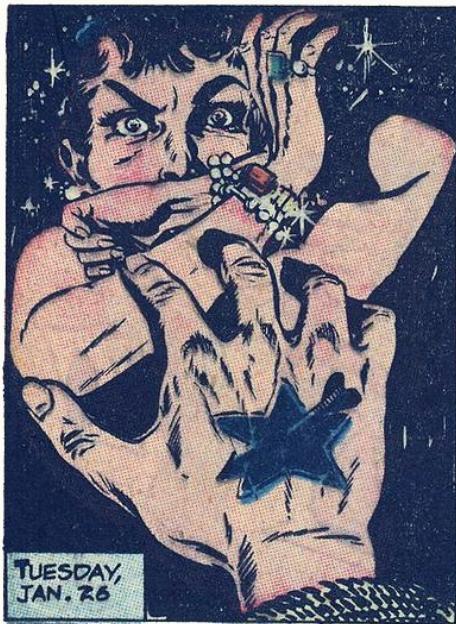
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH LEFT  
OF OLD SAM IF HE HADN'T  
SKEEDADDLED, EH?





OLD SAM WAS NEVER TIED UP AGAIN  
AND DURING ALL TWENTY-TWO  
BATTLES HE WAS THROUGH, HE  
CIRCLED OVERHEAD SCREAMING AWAY!  
AFTER THE WAR HE LIVED IN THE STATE  
CAPITOL IN MADISON, WISCONSIN  
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, THEN JIM MCGINNIS  
TOOK HIM ON AN EXHIBITION TOUR  
UNTIL 1981. THAT YEAR OLD SAM  
DIED...THE LIVING PERSONIFICATION  
OF OUR COINS AND EMBLEMS THAT  
FATE GAVE A CHARMED LIFE!





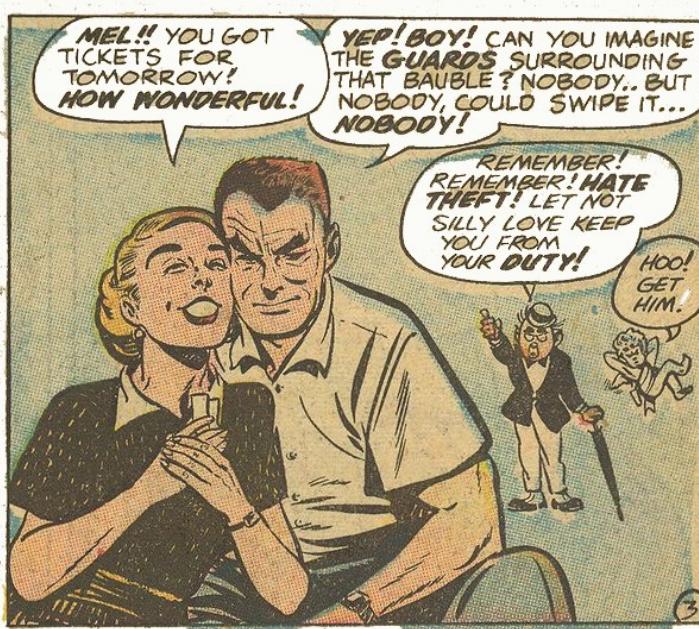
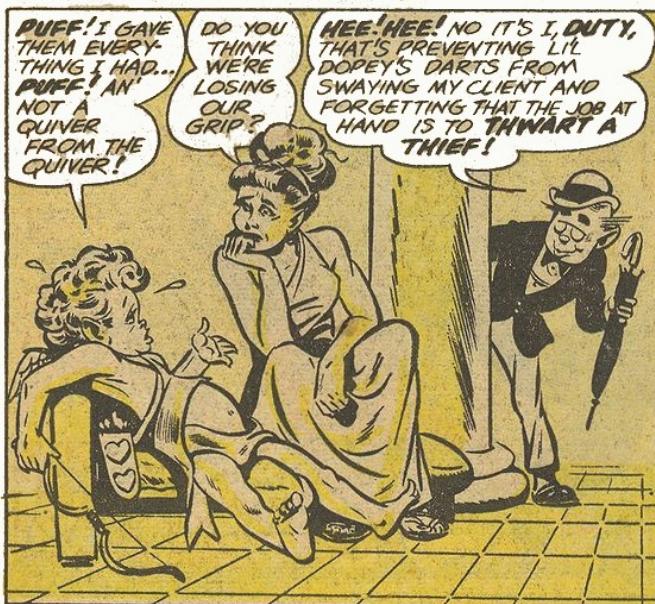
## MAN in BLACK the THIEF!

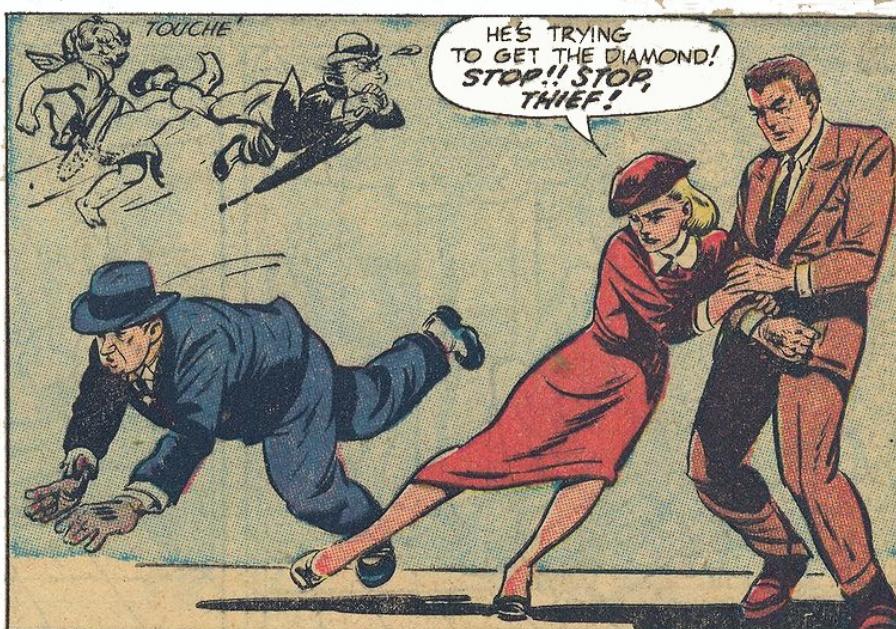
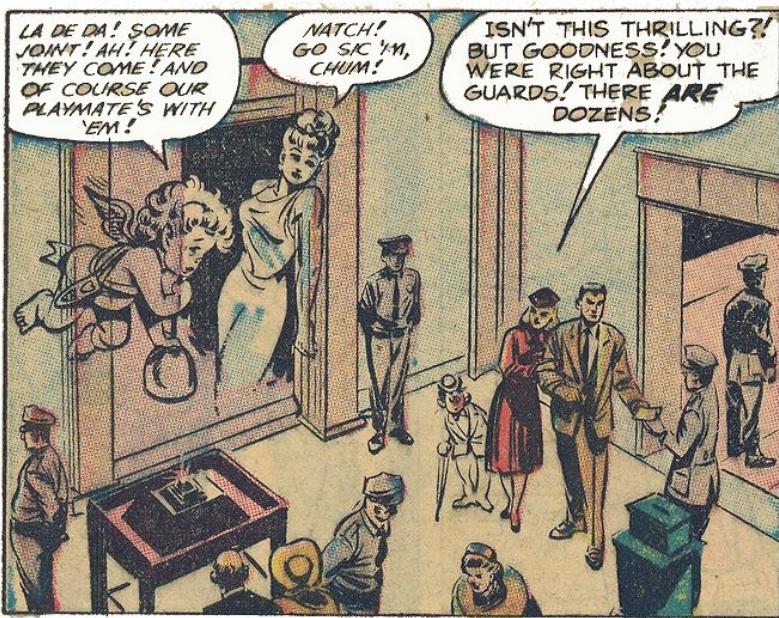
ALLRIGHT MR. MAN-IN-BLACK, HERE'S THE PITCH... A FABULOUS DIAMOND, TWO VERY INTERESTED PEOPLE; ONE OF THEM A DETECTIVE... THE OTHER A JEWEL THIEF! YOU'RE TO BRING THEM TOGETHER "ACCIDENTLY" I'M DOING THIS TO TEST "DUTY..." HE HASN'T BEEN VERY CONCIENTIOUS LATELY! SEE THAT HE MINDS HIS P'S AND Q'S!

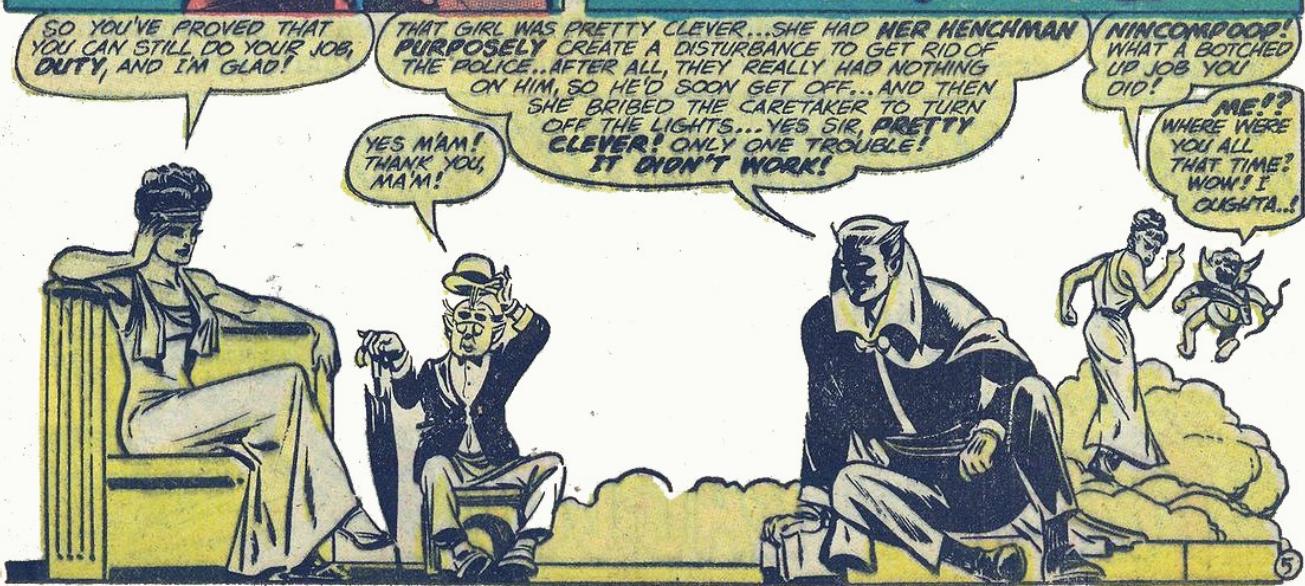
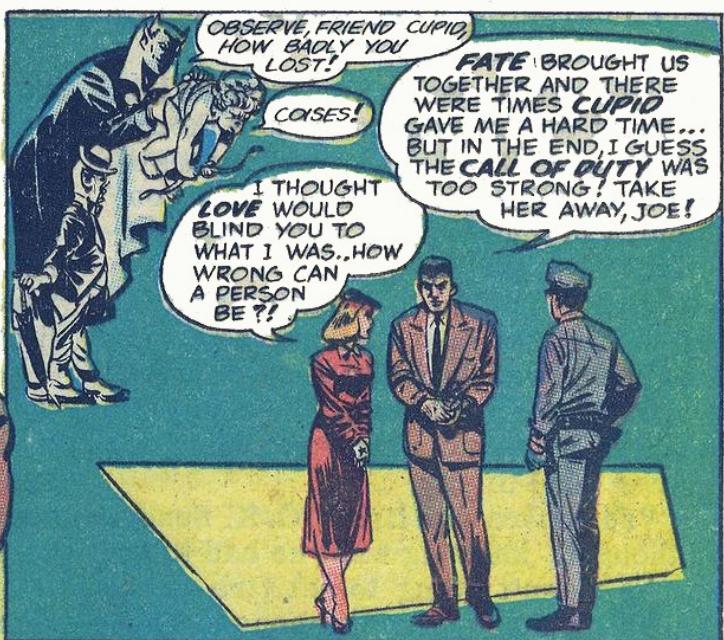
OKAY, WEAVER! AS LONG AS VENUS AND HER LITTLE GOON PLAY-MATE CUPID, KEEP AWAY IT'LL BE NO PROBLEM!





















ALFRED HARVEY PRESENTS

# BLACK the MAN in BLACK

No. 1

GOOD EVENING!  
I AM MR. TWILIGHT,  
YOUR STORY TELLER--  
THE MAN IN BLACK!  
BEFORE I BEGIN I WANT  
TO APOLOGIZE FOR ALWAYS  
KEEPING MY FACE IN THE SHADOWS/  
BUT IT'S QUITE NECESSARY AS  
ONE LOOK AT MY FACE IS  
FATAL! YOU SEE--I'M--  
DEATH!!

\$2.00™

RECOLLECTIONS™  
70011-02



mycomicshop

Tentative infructueuse (2# !) de réédition en 1990

